2010 RECRUITING EDITION

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

LIEEDJIZKV

Andrew Rodriguez

Jake Cotton

Tyler Evans



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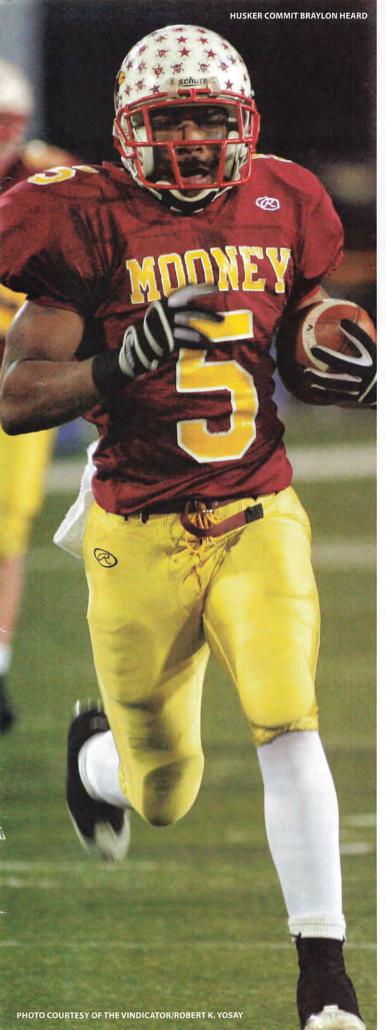
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HUSKERS

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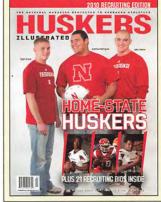
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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 4, the Huskers Illustrated spring football preview will be mailed on Monday, March 15. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

ON THE COVER

Nebraskans Tyler Evans (Waverly), Andrew Rodriguez (Aurora) and Jake Cotton took a break from their busy schedules to be photographed for the cover of the 2010 recruiting edition. Photo by Randy Hampton. Additional photos courtesy of Kenny Felt (Fort Scott Tribune) and Tiffany Tompkins-Condie (The Bradenton Herald)



From the Editor BY AARON BABCOCK

RECRUITING FANS

Recruiting coverage continues to expand



THE HOOPLA around Husker football never ceases to amaze me.

I understand the passion. Seeing 80,000-plus spirited fans stream into Memorial Stadium on crisp September Saturdays is not an isolated event, it's a ritual shared around the country. Jamming the turnstiles in April for a practice game, however, is a feat rarely seen in the sporting world.

But the behavior of Nebraska's recruiting die-hards is a whole different level of commitment. These frenzied recruitniks stand out from their fellow Husker fans and can be recognized by their blood-shot eyes, the result of hours in front of a computer screen, scouring the latest videos on the newest crop of prep standouts. They likely suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome from repeatedly hitting the refresh button while surfing the Internet for the latest recruiting news.

They are a different species of fan, but as Contributing Editor Mike Babcock points out in this issue, recruiting fanatics are anything but new. Today fans can find recruiting information on recruiting websites, Twitter feeds or even Facebook. In the not-so-distant past, fans were relying exclusively on newspapers and magazines for their fix, until the advent of 1-900 numbers provided 24-hour recruiting hotlines.

Our annual recruiting edition is a

bi-product of this fan dedication. Our recruiting edition has always provided Husker fans a chance to read about a future star running back or the next All-America candidate. This issue should not disappoint. It is our largest issue in over 20 years and we've jammed everything you could hope for within these pages.

One of the elements that sets Huskers Illustrated apart from other publications is the quality of content. Our expert writers know Husker football. And nobody knows it better than our own Contributing Editor Mike Babcock.

An author of numerous books and the unsung hero of Huskers Illustrated for 30 years, Mike was recently named the 2009 Nebraska Co-Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association, along with Lee Barfknecht of the Omaha World-Herald.

Mike is incredibly deserving of this award and the most telling part of this award is that it is voted on by his peers, an example of the respect Mike has earned from fellow writers and broadcasters. He is one of the main reasons Huskers Illustrated has succeeded over the past 30 years and will continue to thrive in the future. We thank Mike for his tireless dedication and hope you enjoy the issue! N

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

HUSKERS

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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

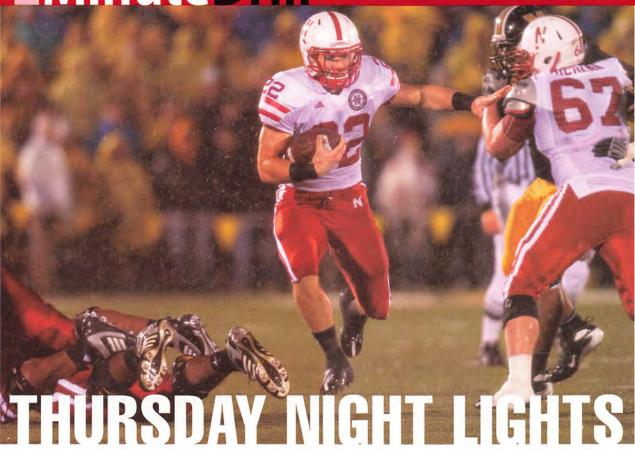
Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, April 17	Spring Game	Memorial Stadium	1 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	TBA



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or the second consecutive season,
Nebraska will open Big 12 play
on the road in a Thursday night
game televised nationally by ESPN. The
Cornhuskers' game at Kansas State,
originally scheduled for Saturday Oct. 2
has been moved to Oct. 7. Kickoff time
has not been announced.

Nebraska opened conference play in 2009 with a Thursday night victory at Missouri.

Originally, ESPN had asked Nebraska and Texas to move this season's Oct. 16 game in Lincoln to a Thursday night. The Longhorns declined, however, because of missed class time.

The Cornhuskers have played in four ESPN Thursday night games, but never at Memorial Stadium. Their only Thursday night home game was against Rice in 2001. That game was rescheduled from a Saturday, following the 9/11 bombings and was not televised.

As a result of the schedule change, Nebraska will have two Saturdays off, Oct. 2 and Oct. 9.

IMPORTANCE OF WALK-ONS

BO PELINI has been credited with renewed interest in walk-ons. Nebraska announced the names of 16 athletes who have indicated they will walk on in the fall. Their names can be released if they have been accepted for admission – which also means they've paid a university fee.

In addition, walk-ons sign a nonbinding agreement of their intention. The number of walk-ons the Cornhuskers take each season depends on roster size, which should be in the range of 155, according to **JEFF JAMROG**, assistant athletic director for football and a former Nebraska walk-

The number of prospective walk-ons is limited. Not everyone can be accepted.

"What you look for in a walk-on is a guy you feel is going to be able to develop," Pelini said. "His size, athleticism, speed might be a little bit rawer, but in the end, guys... we believe through coaching, through development, through weight training, through growth, through maturity, might be able to develop into being an important cog in the football team."

Tryouts also are conducted twice a year to identify walk-ons.



AS GOOD AS CAN BE

Nebraska ranked 10th nationally in average home attendance in 2009, according to NCAA statistics, up from 13th in 2008. But the Cornhuskers aren't likely to climb much higher and certainly not into the top five any time soon. The reason? Stadium seating capacity.

The top nine (also the top nine in 2008) play in stadiums that can accommodate more

TEAM

Michigan

Penn State

Ohio State

Tennessee

Georgia

Alabama

Nebraska

Florida

LSU

Texas

2009 NCAA

ATTENDANCE LEADERS

AVG

108,933

107,008

105,261

101,175

99,220

92,746

92,489

92,012

90,635

85,888

PCT. CAPACITY

102.57

99.74

102.87

107.50

99.21

100.00

110.10

99.86

102.36

105.95

fans. The Cornhuskers' home-game average in 2008 was 85,071, behind Auburn (No. 10, 86,915), USC (No. 11, 86,793) and Oklahoma (No. 12, 85,075). The Sooners were 12th in 2009, at 84,788. Texas A&M was the only other Big 12 school in the top 20, averaging 76,800 (92.53 percent of capacity).

The Big 12 ranked third among conferences in average home attendance (62,956), behind the Southeastern Conference (76,844) and the Big Ten (70,125). The Pac-10 ranked fourth

(57,350) and the Atlantic Coast Conference ranked fifth (52,737).

The SEC has led in average attendance for 11 consecutive seasons.

SIDELINES



Former Cornhuskers LARRY

ASANTE and PHILLIP DILLARD

(above) played in the Senior

Bowl all-star game at Mobile,

Ala., in late January. The two
were on the victorious North
squad (31-13), coached by the

Detroit Lions' JIM SCHWARTZ

and his staff. Asante originally
committed to playing in the

East-West Shrine Game in

Orlando, Fla., the week before
the Senior Bowl.



JAIVORIO BURKES, an offensive lineman who played as a true freshman in 2007 and started four games in 2008, is no longer a member of the team. Burkes sat out the 2009 season because of an unspecified medical condition.

JUNIOR COLLEGE TALENT

ERMARCUS HARDRICK'S nickname is "Yoshi," which might seem a bit incongruous for a 6-foot-7, 315-pound offensive lineman. For Super Mario videogame enthusiasts, Yoshi is a (usually) green dinosaur. Yoshi isn't ill-tempered, or particularly intimidating.

Apparently, however, the same can't be said of "Yoshi" Hardrick, a transfer from Fort Scott Community College who has enrolled for classes and will compete in spring practice.

"Nebraska's getting the meanest football player I've ever coached in my life," Hardrick's coach at Fort Scott, **JEFF SIMS**, told the *Lincoln Journal Star* recently.

"Football is his lottery ticket, and he ain't going to give it up."

Hardrick, Fort Scott teammate **LAVONTE DAVID**, a linebacker, and **CHASE HARPER**, a tight end from Navarro Junior College, are the only junior college transfers in the Cornhuskers' 2010 recruiting class. Hardrick and David are joining another Fort Scott product, wide receiver **BRANDON KINNIE**, one of two junior college transfers in the 2009 class.

Coach **BO PELINI's** first recruiting class at Nebraska also had just two junior college transfers, in marked contrast to the classes of his predecessor, **BILL CALLAHAN**.

During four years as Cornhusker coach, Callahan's recruiting included 28 junior college transfers, the number Nebraska recruited in the previous 19 years combined and only 14 fewer than **TOM OSBORNE** recruited in 25 seasons as head coach.

In any case, Kinnie "is a good person, and Yoshi is in between – he can be a good kid and he can be a bad kid," Sims told the *Journal Star*. "It depends on his environment."

YEAR	NAME	POS	JUNIOR COLLEGE	LETTERS
(1973)	Wonder Monds	DB	Indian Hills Community College	1973-74-75
	Tom Thomas	C	West Los Angeles Junior College	
(1974)	Jake Cabell	DE-SE-TE	Ferum Junior College	1976
	Ray Phillips	DE	Marshalltown Junior College	1975-76
(1975)	Scott Avery	L	Long Beach City College	
(1976)	Rene Anderson	DB	El Camino Junior College	1976-77
	Mark Dufresne	TE	Ventura Junior College	1976-77
(1977)	Frank Lockett	SE	Contra Costa College	1977-78
	Greg McQuitter	DB	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M	
	Mike Ruzich	DT-TE	Coffeyville Community College	
	Billy Todd	K-P	Mesa Community College	1977-78
(1978)	Jim Kelly	FB	Rochester Junior College	
	Mark LeRoy	M	Clackamas Junior College	1978-79
	John Minor	DE-DT	Joliet Junior College	
	Brent Williams	LB	Los Angeles SW Community College	1978-80
(1979)	Mark Tuck	DT	Independence Community College	
	Henry Waechter	DT	Waldorf Junior College	1980-81
(1980)	None			
(1981)	Mike Rozier	RB	Coffeyville Community College	1981-83
	Kevin Waechter	DT	Waldorf Junior College	
	Grant Campbell	Р	Ricks Junior College	1981-82
(1982)	Kevin Biggers	DB	Mount San Antonio Junior College	1984-84
(1983)	Scott Livingston	K-P	Cerritos Junior College	1983-84
(1984)	None			

SIDELINES



FIALA RELEASED FROM BROADCAST TEAM

The Husker Sports Network announced in late January that ADRIAN FIALA would no longer be a color commentator for radio broadcasts of football games. The network decided to downsize, utilizing two people in the broadcast booth – play-by-play announcer GREG SHARPE and color commentator MATT DAVISON. Fiala, a former Cornhusker football and baseball letterman, had been involved with the Husker network since 1996.

twitter

INSTANT UPDATES

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YEAR	NAME	POS	JUNIOR COLLEGE	LETTERS
(1985)	Brian Davis	DB	Glendale Community College	1985-86
7.65.34	Cleo Miller	DB	Taft Junior College	1985-86
(1986)	None		7 - 8a 2 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	
(1987)	Bryan Carpenter	FB	Coffeyville Community College	1987-89
176491	Tim Jackson	DB	Coffeyville Community College	1987-88
(1988)	Junior Monarrez	MG	Cerritos Junior College	1988-89
125000	Bruce Pickens	DB	Coffeyville Community College	1988-90
(1989)	Omar Soto	FB	Arizona Western	1990-91
(1990)	Vincent Hawkins	FB	Spokane Falls Community College	1991-92
(alama)	Kenny Wilhite	WB	Dodge City Community College	1991-92
(1991)	Ernie Beler	SS	Ellsworth Junior College	1991-93
	Trumane Bell	SE	Highland Community College	1992-93
(1000)	Anthony Cole	CB	El Camino Junior College	1000 01
(1992)	Kareem Moss	CB	Garden City Community College	1992-94
(1003)	Toby Wright	5	Phoenix College	1992-93
(1993)		NB/DB	Garden City Community College	1993-94
/1004)	Jason Jenkins	DT	Dodge City Community College	1994-95
(1994)	Brian Knuckles	RB	Coffeyville Community College	
(1995)	Terrell Farley	LB	Independence Community College	1995-96
(1996)	None		Av	alara ar
(1997)	Brandon Harrison	DB	Blinn Junior College	1997
Value of the	Glen Matthews	DL	North Dakota State College of Science	
(1998)	None		CONTRACTOR OF STATE O	
(1999)	Larry Henderson	SE	West Los Angeles Community College	
(2000)	Thunder Collins	RB	East Los Angeles Community College	2000-01
(2001)	Rodney Burgess	DB	Hutchinson Community College	
G. 11 2 3	Clifford Brye	SE	Hutchinson Community College	
(2002)	Demorrio Williams	LB	Kilgore College	2002-03
(2003)	Donald DeFrand	CB	Dodge City Community College	2004
	Darren DeLone	OL	Mt. San Antonio College	2003-04
2201	Wali Muhammad	DE	Coffeyville Community College	2004-05
(2004)	Jordan Adams	QB	Grossmont College	
	Cornelius Fuamatu-Thoma		San Francisco City College	2005
	Marque McCray	WR	College of San Mateo	2005
(2005)	Shamus McKoy	WR	Scottsdale Community College	2005
(2005)	Zack Bowman	CB	New Mexico Military Institute	2005-07
	Barry Cryer Ola Dagunduro	DL	Dodge City Community College Compton College	2005-06 2005-06
	Frantz Hardy	WR	Butler County Community College	2005-06
	Dontrell Moore	LB	Coffeyville Community College	2005-06-07
	Steve Octavien	LB	William Rainey Harper College	2006-07
	Brock Pasteur	OL	Mesabi Range Community College	
	Jordan Picou	OL	Mt. San Antonio College	2007
	Tyrell Spain	WR	Mesa College	200
	Zac Taylor	QB	Butler County Community College	2005-06
	Justin Tomerlin	TE	Butler County Community College	_
	Bryan Wilson	DB	Pierce College	2006-07
(2006)	Victory Haines	OL	Snow College	2007
	Brandon Johnson	DL	Compton College	2006-07
	Andre Jones	DB	Fresno City College	2006-07
	Carl Nicks	OL	Hartnell College	2006-07
	Maurice Purify	WR	San Francisco City College	2006-07
ra a re-	Kenny Wilson	RB	Butler County Community College	2006
(2007)	Larry Asante	DB	Coffeyville Community College	2007-08-09
	Shukree Barfield	DT	Garden City Community College	2007-08
	Kevin Dixon	DT	Garden City Community College	2007
	Zac Lee	QB	San Francisco City College	2009
	Armando Murillo	DB	Eastern Arizona Community College	2007-08
/2000	Joseph Townsend	DT	Foothill Community College	2000
(2008)	Ricky Henry	OL	North Dakota State College of Science	2009-curren
/20001	Tyson Hetzer	TE	Citrus College	2000
(2009)	Dejon Gomes	DB	San Francisco City College	2009-current
	Brandon Kinnie	WR	Fort Scott Community College	2009-current

SIDELINES

REGULAR REPRESENTATION

Former Cornhusker KYLE

VANDEN BOSCH (1997-2000),

now a defensive end for the NFL's

Tennessee Titans, played in his third

Pro Bowl in the past five seasons.

Vanden Bosch was the 10th former

Cornhusker to play in at least three

Pro Bowls.

Among the others were defensive linemen NEIL SMITH and JOHN

DUTTON.

Vanden Bosch, a second-round draft pick of the Arizona Cardinals, has played in nine NFL seasons, the last five with the Titans. He was added to the AFC roster after Indianapolis defensive ends

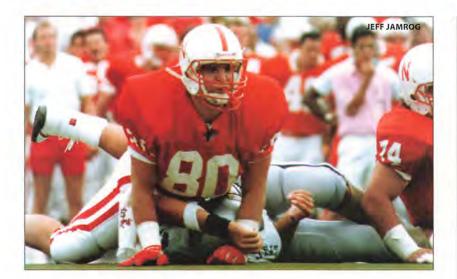
ROBERT MATHIS and DWIGHT

FREENEY withdrew because of the Colts' playing in Super Bowl XLIV.

Nebraska has been represented in 18 of the last 19 Pro Bowls.

PRO BOWL HUSKERS

Will Shields(12)
Bob Brown(6)
Mick Tingelhoff(6)
Neil Smith(6)
Irving Fryar(5)
Roger Craig(4)
Ahman Green(4)
Kyle Vanden Bosch,(3)
Pat Fischer(3)
John Dutton(3)
Ron McDole(2)
Mike Rozier(2)
Junior Miller(2)
Tyrone Hughes(1)
Andra Franklin(1)
Mike Rucker(1)
Mike Brown(1)



RESPECT FOR WALK-ONS

Booster functions in Lincoln and Omaha at which Nebraska's 2010 football recruiting class was discussed included video not only of scholarship recruits but also of the walk-ons.

Nebraska might be the only school in the country to show video of walk-on players, according to **JEFF JAMROG**, the Cornhuskers' assistant athletic director for football.

In fact, "that's the first thing we do," said Jamrog. "Someone made a comment like, 'Shouldn't we show the scholarship players first and then show the walk-ons? I said, 'No.'

"I said, 'This is what makes Nebraska... give everyone their due diligence."

For that matter, few if any schools even announce walk-ons, said Jamrog, who understands walk-ons, having been a Cornhusker walk-on defensive end himself in 1983.

"They took 23 scholarship players that year, and I remember Coach (TOM) OSBORNE saying, 'If we had 24, you'd probably be the 24th guy,' "Jamrog said. "All I do is I tell recruits my story.

"I don't try to convince them that this is the place for them. I tell them about the great things that can happen, and: 'Ultimately, it's going to be up to you.'"

JUGGLING NUMBERS

Even though the 2010 class includes 21 scholarship recruits, and only 13 scholarship seniors completed their eligibility, Nebraska won't be over the NCAA limit of 85, said **BO PELINI**.

In fact, the Cornhuskers might be one under the limit, at 84, he said on signing day. "There are a lot more things that create numbers for you than just seniors graduating. There are some issues, some medical issues and some things like that that have happened."

He declined to elaborate, however.

Long ago, scholarships were limited only by what a school could afford to offer. In 1973, the NCAA set the limit at 105. Since then:

1978			•		٠										.95	-
1992															.92	
1993															.88	
1994	,				+										.85	

SIDELINES



SUPER BOWL HUSKERS

Nebraska was well-represented in the New Orleans Saints' 31-17 victory against the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV. Former Cornhuskers SCOTT SHANLE (above), CARL NICKS and CODY GLENN played in the game, and former TOM OSBORNE assistant GENE HUEY was the Colts' running backs coach.

Shanle and Nicks were Saints starters, Shanle at linebacker and Nicks at offensive left guard, helping to protect Super Bowl MVP quarterback **DREW BREES**. Shanle was credited with six tackles.

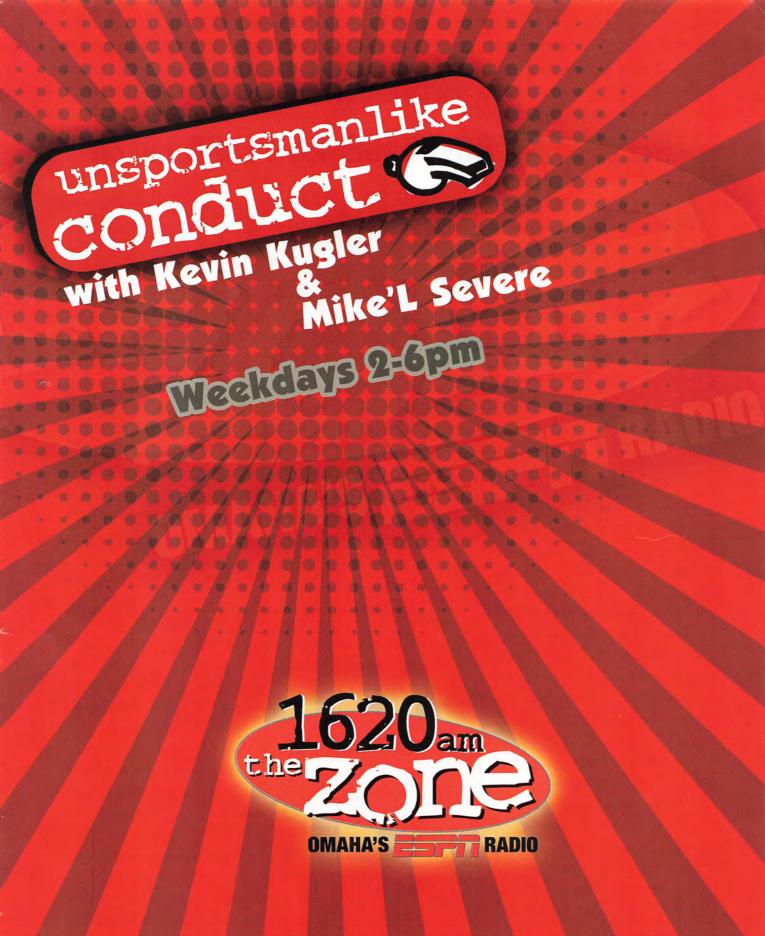
Glenn, listed as a linebacker, played on special teams for the Colts.

The former Cornhusker with the most Super Bowl appearances?

MICK TINGELHOFF, who played in four with the Minnesota Vikings.

ROGER CRAIG, GRANT WISTROM and RUSS HOCHSTEIN all played in three.

The first former Huskers to play in a Super Bowl were **KENT MCCLOUGHAN** and **WARREN POWERS**, defensive backs and teammates with the Oakland
Raiders in Super Bowl II.



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RECRUITING COVERAGE: 25 YEARS LATER

ome aspects of recruiting were different 25 years ago. NCAA rules allowed 95 players on scholarship, with as many as 30 awarded in a recruiting class. And interest in recruiting wasn't fed by the Internet, so it might have seemed less passionate. But it wasn't.

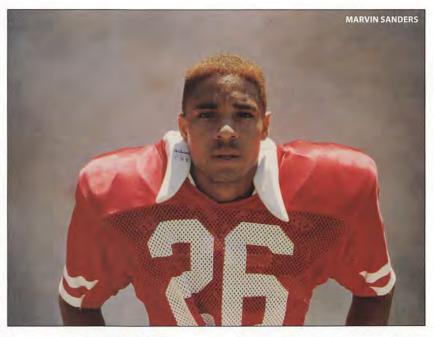
Excitement over Nebraska's 1985 recruiting class was tempered by more than the usual uncertainty regarding the commitments of graduating high school seniors. The reason: **TOM OSBORNE** hadn't been on the road the final week and a half before signing day. The Cornhuskers' 47-year-old coach had undergone double-bypass heart surgery, requiring the better part of three hours.

Six days after the surgery, Osborne (6 pounds lighter) held a news conference, not only to discuss the surgery but also to address Nebraska's recruiting. If things stayed the way they were, he said, the 1985 recruiting class could be as good as the Cornhuskers had ever put together.

MAX EMFINGER, a prominent recruiting analyst based in Houston, agreed. He projected Nebraska's class to be the nation's best – if all of the commitments signed.

On letter-of-intent-signing day, Osborne said the class of 25 was Nebraska's biggest, strongest and fastest ever. The class included **STEVE TAYLOR**, a quarterback from San Diego; **BRODERICK THOMAS**, a defensive end from Houston and **LEROY ETIENNE**, a linebacker from New Iberia, La.

It also included a defensive back from



Markham, Ill. - MARVIN SANDERS.

Etienne was the two-time Louisiana high school defensive player of the year. A radio station in Oklahoma City reported that he would back out of his oral commitment to Nebraska and sign with LSU. In fact, he hid from LSU recruiters the day before letters could be signed.



Etienne's signed letter-of-intent was collected by Cornhusker assistant coach **GENE HUEY**, who then flew on a private Learjet to Pasadena, Calif., to get **RICHARD BELL**'s letter of intent.

Offensive line coach MILT TENOPIR piloted a plane to Amarillo, Texas, for the signing of BILL BOBBORA, among eight interior linemen (offense and defense) in the class.

Every signed letter was collected by an assistant coach, though defensive coordinator **CHARLIE MCBRIDE** was out of the mix because of the death of his father.

As he did every signing day, Osborne talked about Nebraska's extensive evaluation process and how it didn't rely on the rankings of analysts such as Emfinger. Etienne was the No. 1

linebacker on the Cornhuskers' list. Thomas was the No. 1 defensive end. And KRIS LAMB, a fullback from Waxahachie, Texas, was No. 1 at his position. Lamb would have off-the-field problems and never play.

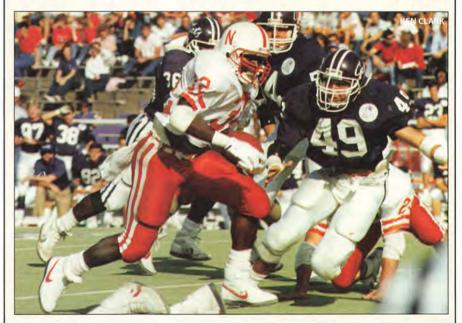
There were last-minute disappointments. AARON EMANUEL, a Parade magazine All-America running back from Quartz Hill, Calif., announced he would accept a scholarship from USC instead of Nebraska. And PATRICK OVERSHOWN, a split end from Houston, signed with Missouri. Overshown, Thomas's high school teammate, had indicated he was leaning toward the Huskers.

As it turned out, the loss of Emanuel was offset by the signing of **KEN CLARK**, among the hidden gems in the class. Clark, a running back from Bryan High School in Omaha, drew little attention on signing day. But he finished with more career rushing yards than any Cornhusker except **MIKE ROZIER**, the 1983 Heisman Trophy winner. Clark rushed for 3,037 yards and 29 touchdowns.

The recruiting process didn't end on signing day, Osborne said. Nebraska had two more weekends for potential walk-ons to visit campus. The coaches wanted to identify 35 to 40 walk-ons.

The list of walk-ons in 1985 grew to 60, four of whom would earn more than one letter.

	1	985	RECRUITIN	IG CLASS	
NAME	HT.	WT.	POSITION	HOMETOWN	LETTERS
Tony Avant	6-2	175	Slit end	Omaha, Neb.	
Richard Bell	6-1	190	Wingback	Altadena, Calif.	1987-88-89
Bill Bobbora	6-4	248	Offensive line	Amarillo, Texas	1987-88-89
Bryan Carpenter	5-10	200	Running back	Olathe, Kan.	1987-88-89
Greg Ching	6-9	250	Defensive tackle	Castlewood, S.D.	
Ken Clark	5-11	185	Running back	Omaha, Neb.	1987-88-89
Steve DeShazer	6-3	230	Linebacker	Kansas City, Mo.	
Chris Drennan	5-8	170	Kicker	Cypress, Calif.	1987-88-89
LeRoy Etienne	6-2	225	Linebacker	New Iberia, La.	1985-86-87-88
Trenton Flowers	6-4	200	Defensive end	Omaha, Neb.	
Greg Hinson	6-4	260	Offensive line	Mt. Laurel, N.J.	-
Kris Lamb	6-2	198	Fullback	Waxahachie, Texas	
Tim Moore	6-5	290	Offensive line	Atwater, Calif.	
Chad Murrell	6-5	190	Defensive back	Grand Island, Neb.	
Bump Novacek	6-4	210	Tight end	Gothenburg, Neb.	
Chris O'Gara	6-5	240	Center	Madison, Wis.	1987-88-89
Cleo Rice	6-3	240	Defensive end	Leavenworth, Kan.	
John Roschal	6-3	265	Offensive line	Houston, Texas	1988-89
Marvin Sanders	6-0	175	Defensive back	Markham, III.	1987-88-89
Sam Schmidt	6-0	215	Fullback	Wood River, Neb.	1987-88-89
Steve Taylor	6-1	185	Quarterback	Spring Valley, Calif.	1985-86-87-88
Broderick Thomas	6-4	235	Defensive end	Houston, Texas	1985-86-87-88
Ray Vallado	6-4	240	Line	Atwater, Calif.	1987-88-89
Kent Wells	6-5	285	Defensive tackle	Lincoln, Neb.	1987-88-89



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BURR, NE



DEAN STEINKUHLER was much decorated as a Cornhusker senior in 1983. In addition to earning All-America recognition, he won the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award.

Legendary comedian Bob Hope even acknowledged him during Nebraska's "Double Hundred Celebration" at the Devaney Sports Center in December of that year.

"Instead of a number on his jersey, he should wear a license plate," Hope said of the 6-foot-3, 270-pound offensive guard. "Dean was born in Burr, Neb., which has a population of 300."

"And 200 of them are him."

Actually, Burr's official population in 1983 was 110, making it the smallest town, post World War II, to produce a consensus major college football All-American.

West Virginia's Bruce Bosley, an All-America tackle in 1955, previously held that distinction. His hometown of Green Bank, W.V., had a population of 115.

Steinkuhler's story was truly small-town boy makes good. The father of former Cornhusker Ty and current Cornhusker Baker, played eightman football his senior year at Sterling High School.

He was named the Class D "Defensive Player of the Year" by the *Lincoln Journal* and *Star* but didn't earn first-team all-conference recognition because eight offensive players were chosen. His primary position on offense – he saw action at five different positions – was fullback.

He didn't attract much recruiting interest. The Cornhuskers' primary competition included South Dakota and South Dakota State, which also offered him scholarships.

Steinkuhler weighed 240 pounds when he arrived at Nebraska and ran the 40-yard dash in 5.13 seconds. By his senior year, he was 30 pounds heavier and could run 40 yards in 4.87 seconds, electronically timed. He was the team's fastest interior lineman on either side of the ball

Steinkuhler was regarded in much the same way as Ndamukong Suh this season. He was unique. And traditional rules didn't apply. A columnist for the Washington Post, Ken Denlinger, wrote that Steinkuhler, not teammate Mike Rozier, should win the Heisman Trophy.

Like Suh, Steinkuhler's resume included a touchdown. He ran 19 yards on a "fumblerooski" play for Nebraska's first score against Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl game.

For the benefit of the Hurricane defenders, the "license-plate" was No. 71.

BURR, NE

County: Otoe Population: 64 (July 2008) Distance from Lincoln: 27 miles

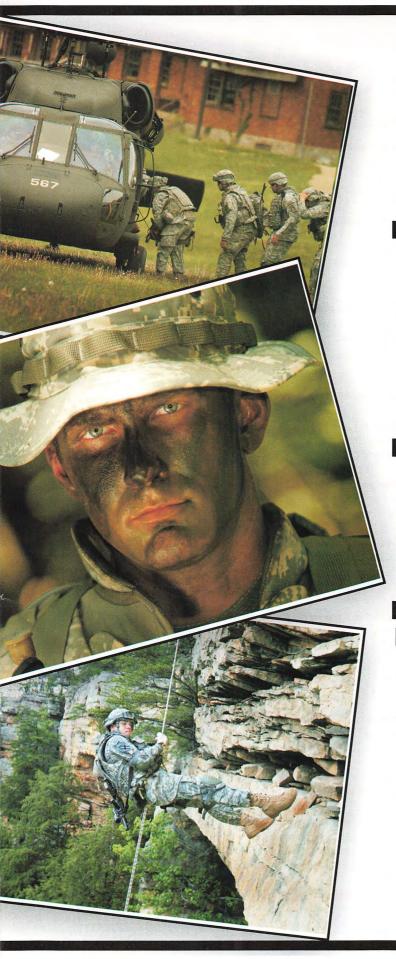
NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN Dean Steinkubler

Dean Steinkuhler, OG (1981-82-83)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Dean Steinkuhler was nicknamed the "Burr Oak" because of his hometown. Burr, which had a peak population of 133 in 1920 according to Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, was originally named Burr Oak because of a nearby grove of burr oak trees. The name was shortened to Burr in 1888 to avoid confusion with Burr Oak, Kan.
- ▶ No Husker lineman on either side of the ball has been selected higher than Steinkuhler in the NFL draft. He was the second pick in 1984. Teammate Irving Fryar was the first. The other Husker interior linemen to be picked second overall in the draft were Bob Brown in 1964 and Neil Smith in 1988. Brown was an offensive guard, Smith a defensive tackle.
- Steinkuhler played eight seasons with the Houston Oilers.





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Khiry Cooper

6-2, 195, Redshirted Freshman, Wide Reciever, Shreveport, La.

HI: How much does missing spring football affect you when fall camp comes around?

COOPER: I don't think it affects me too much. I missed it last year, and I played quite a bit, started five or six games. I don't think it hurts me too much, as long as I still do things on my off-time and maintain what I need to do in the football aspect.

HI: How much Angels gear do you own?

COOPER: I never really was a fan of the Angels. That's just the team I happened to get drafted by. I'm a Yankees fan, so I have a lot of Yankees hats and stuff. I have one Angels hat. I bought it just because I liked it, not really because I'm a fan. I mean, they're a great organization, but I just grew up liking the Yankees.

HI: Do you know Joba Chamberlain at all?

COOPER: Yeah, I've talked to him. He comes in and works out when we're at practice and things like that. He's a pretty good guy. He's gone out and done well, and it's cool to see somebody from the place that I'm at right now go to my dream team and be a dominant player for them. That's been pretty cool to see.

HI: Of the wide receivers on your team, who impresses you the most?

COOPER: I would say probably Niles (Paul). He's one of those guys, he's always doing what he needs to be doing. I say that because he's always hustling, he's always doing the extra thing. I've learned from him in that aspect, to never give up and always be going after it, no matter if you mess up or not, just going 100 percent.

HI: Which sport do you feel you have the best future in beyond Nebraska?

COOPER: I'm not sure as of right now. I'm still pursuing both of them. I'm not really sure right now. We'll have to see. My favorite's baseball.

HI: Who has the most creative nickname on the team, either baseball or football?

COOPER: I don't know. I'd just say the funniest real name is Boomer. That's just funny that his name is Boomer. It's funny to me because he comes from Texas, and he has this country name. He's a really good guy.



COOPER: I guess just hanging out with Jacob Hester. I know him because he's from Shreveport, and he went to my rival school, Evangel. What's funny about it is, the girl he's married to, Katie, her dad, he was my receivers coach in high school. I pretty much know their whole family and hung out with them for two or three days. Just being able to hang out with him and not really talking about football, that was a pretty cool deal.

HI: Who on the football team does a good impression of Bo Pelini?

COOPER: Uh, a lot of people don't really try to make fun of Coach Pelini. I would say more so on the baseball end, like (Adam) Bailey. He's the person who tries to make fun of everybody. He's the jokester.

HI: What are your expectations for the baseball team this year?

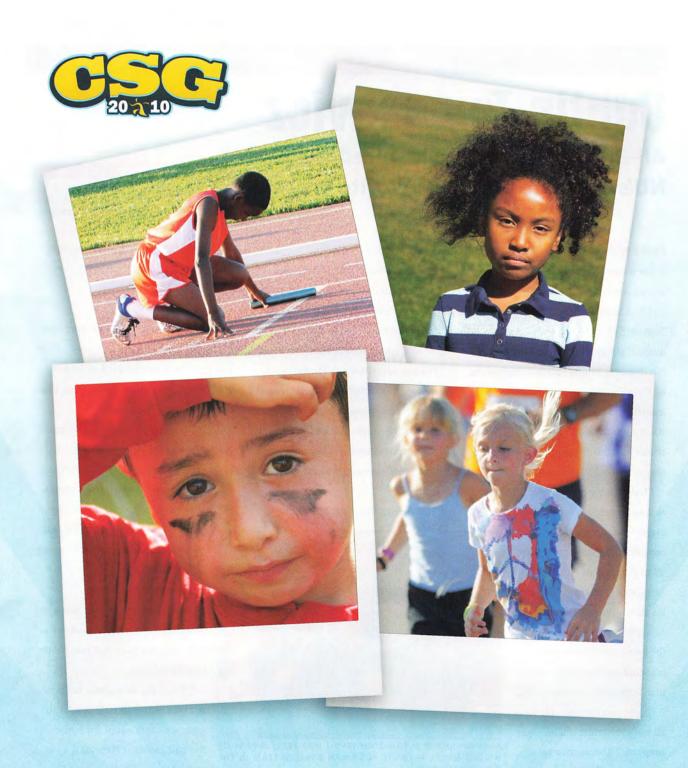
COOPER: We're looking really good right now. I expect, obviously, for us to do a lot better than last year. Coming out our first couple of series, playing really tough teams at their place, I think that's good for us, because we have a lot of young players, and that will be good to get them in that environment. We want to come out this year and show people we aren't scared. Our motto this year is 'Run toward the fight.' I think that's what we're coming out doing.

HI: If you were commissioner of Major League Baseball for one day, what would you change?

COOPER: No tobacco. I don't do any of that mess. To me, it's pointless and it hinders a lot of people. They may hate me, but it would be good for them in the long run.







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The Nebraska Sports Council Adopt an Athlete program allows low-income athletes and families to take part in the Cornhusker State Games at no charge to the athlete. Thanks to rising needs, we're asking you to consider adopting one or more athletes with a donation to the Nebraska Sports Council.

You can learn more about the program and make your donation at CornhuskerStateGames.com/adopt.

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Curtis Tomasevicz

All-Pro Vanden Bosch inspired NU's Olympic bobsled favorite

EVERY NEBRASKA football walk-on has a role model, and, believe it or not, they are not always other walk-ons.

Oh, Curtis Tomasevicz (pronounced Tom-eh-SEV-itch) had walk-on role models, plenty of them, in fact, but his No. 1 source of inspiration happened to be Kyle Vanden Bosch, a four-time NU letterman, two-time first-team Academic All-American, second-round NFL draft choice and the only former Husker who played in the 2010 Pro Bowl game.

"Kyle is a big part of what I've been able to accomplish myself. He is the

player I used as my model for consistent, aggressive, intensive effort every single day," said Tomasevicz, who qualified for his second Winter Olympics as a gold-medal favorite in the four-man bobsled and a potential medalist in the two-man bobsled in Vancouver, B.C.

"Kyle was the best. He went all out every time the ball was snapped," Tomasevicz said. "I was a small fullback, and he

would just flatten you, steamroll you. He'd hit you as hard he as could, and the next the time ball was snapped, he'd do the same thing all over again. I never saw anyone go full-speed as often as he did. When I finally got done with football and made a run at being an Olympic bobsledder, I decided he was my benchmark. I was going to try and

compete just like he did."

And that's exactly what happened. Three years after lettering on Nebraska's 2003 team, Tomasevicz made the 2006 Olympic four-man bobsled team that finished sixth in Torino, Italy.

His last two years as a Husker were spent as a linebacker and special-teams player, and his most memorable moment came when he nailed Colorado's Jeremy Bloom, who became an Olympic skier, on the game's opening kickoff at CU's 5-yard-line.

Tomasevicz likes to think that he



FORMER HUSKER CURTIS TOMASEVICZ (FAR LEFT) IS PART OF A GOLD MEDAL FAVORITE FOUR-MAN BOBSLED TEAM IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS.

helped set the tone for Frank Solich's last game as Nebraska's head coach - a 31-22 win over the Buffs.

"My dream was like everyone else growing up in Nebraska - to wear that N on the side of my helmet and to find a way to get on the playing field," Tomasevicz said. "The thing about playing at Nebraska as a walk-on is

CURTIS TOMASEVICZ

LETTER: 2003

POSITION: Fullback-linebacker/special

team

CURRENT: Member, 2010 U.S. Olympic Two-Man and Four-Man Bobsled Team

Residence: Shelby, Neb.

really pretty simple. We've all been fans of the program almost since birth. When you grow up with that kind of love in your heart, you can't help but bring that extra passion to the program."

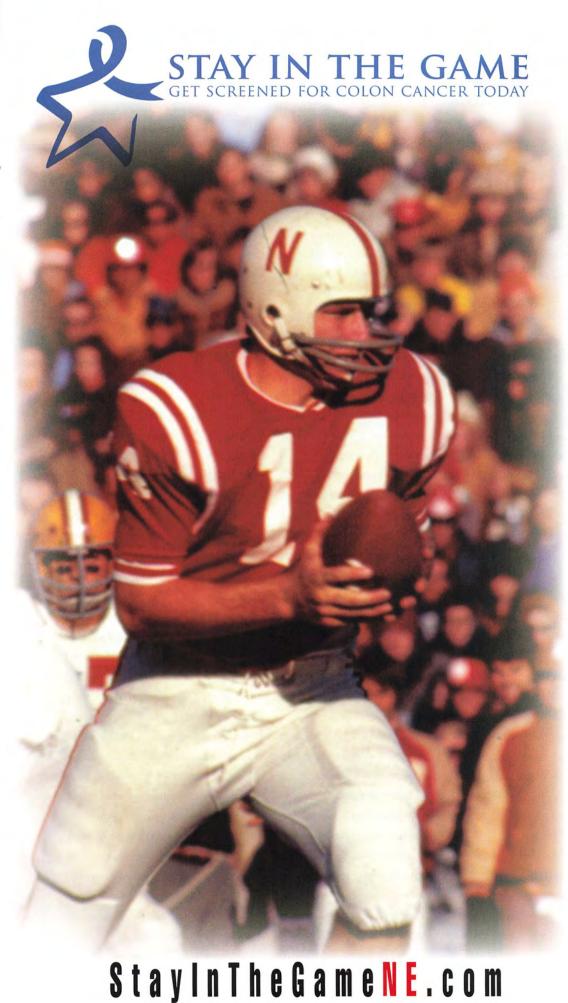
That passion, of course, is now inside a bobsled where Tomasevicz is the brakeman, meaning he's the last guy on the sled. "I push for about five seconds as hard as I can, jump in the sled, then

go for a one-minute ride," he said.
"I love the adrenalin rush of going down the track."

Tomasevicz can't help remembering all the hard work and sacrifices he made as a walk-on and how they prepared him for the worldwide stage.

"When we were about to come out of a tunnel in Italy similar to what we came out of for home football games at Nebraska, I thought I knew what to expect,"

Tomasevicz said. "But when I saw the Olympic Rings and actually thought about that many people watching us on TV, that's when it really hit me. I'd made it. This was the Olympics, and I was wearing a uniform with USA on my back. I was representing the whole country and the entire state of Nebraska. It's quite a trip, very humbling." N





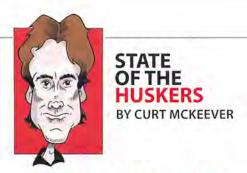
"If you remember watching me play for the Huskers, ask your doctor about getting screened for colon cancer."

JERRY TAGGE
All-American Quarterback,
1970-71

You have the power to stay in the game of life. Starting at age 50, you can reduce your risk of colon cancer with regular screening.



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No battle of the stars for Pelini, staff

NEBRASKA'S 2010 recruiting class had just been bolstered by the 11th-hour commitments of Bradenton, Fla., quarterback Brion Carnes and Maywood, Ill., safety Corey Cooper, so, naturally, Bo Pelini was in an up-beat mood.

But it's not like the Huskers – who wouldn't have had a quarterback had Carnes been more influenced by strong ties to Western Kentucky's new coaching staff, and landed the ballyhooed Cooper over Illinois, Notre Dame and Arizona – all of a sudden got bumped into the top 10 nationally by the recruiting analysts.

Not that Pelini would bat an eye if those gurus were labeling him a recruiting genius. As it should be, the only people Pelini and his staff try to impress are themselves.

"We got the guys we felt could help us win championships," Pelini said. "As a whole, we feel like we made our team better."

Oh, but the two most-recognized recruiting services HAVE taken notice of what's going on at Nebraska.

Each of NU's three classes put together by Pelini has drawn a higher ranking by Rivals - from No. 30 in 2008 to 28th last year to 23rd.

Obviously, Nebraska's level of on-field success and recruiting are intertwined. The more games you win, the more apt people are to think you're getting better talent.

Conversely, you lose too many games in a season or seasons, and you're likely to find fewer higher-profile recruits in a class. Never mind that there actually might be some studs who fly under the radar. Fans, and recruiting gurus, are going to be quick to be skeptical.

The 9-4 and 10-4 seasons Nebraska has produced under Pelini have sent most critics elsewhere.

This year, NU also benefited from the standout season turned in by defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh. But more than likely, the successful stretch run, the down-to-the-wire battle with No. 2 Texas in the Big 12 championship and 33-0 whipping of Arizona in the Holiday Bowl were bigger factors in recruiting.

"I think any time you win, especially on a national stage (it helps)," Pelini said. "Kids watch football. They saw the momentum we had at the end of the year. I think they see a program that's getting better, that's playing good football, playing an exciting brand of football and the more we do that, the easier it is to walk into homes and walk into schools and get people's attention.

"The Holiday Bowl played a big part in that. I think there were a lot of games leading up to that to play a part in that."

Games where players such as cornerbacks Alfonzo Dennard and Dejon Gomes looked like they should have been considered more than '3-star' recruits.

"I think what's happened is now we are without worry about what any pundit or so-called expert can say," defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said. "We could turn down a 5-star running back and take a Rex Burkhead-type because I think people finally trust what we're after and who we want to be."

Now, don't misunderstand. Nebraska coaches would have felt like doing cartwheels if Owamagbe Odighizuwa, the 5-star defensive end prospect from Portland, Ore., had chosen the Huskers instead of UCLA.

But Odighizuwa wasn't sought after just because of his amazing athletic set.

Nebraska's evaluation formula also delves heavily into what players show in the areas of discipline and tough-mindedness. In fact, offensive coordinator Shawn Watson doesn't even want to know the player's name, or his reputation among recruiting analysts, when making an initial video evaluation of a quarterback.

"I just want to evaluate what I see on film...I don't know what kind of star rankings they're going to get and don't care," Watson said. "I don't want to be tainted by all that stuff."

Not surprisingly, then, when Pelini unveiled Nebraska's 2010 class, he talked no more about Carnes or Cooper or other '4-star' members than anyone else.

"I just look at our overall depth chart and it looks mighty different from when I got here. I'm really happy about that, especially if the guys develop and become the type of players we feel we can help them become," he said. "I like the way the roster looks right now." N

RecruitingNotebook

Hitting the jackpot at quarterback

by Mike Matya

It took right up until the last week of the recruiting cycle for Nebraska to fill their quarterback slot for the 2010 recruiting class.

A few days before National Letter of Intent signing day, Millard South's BRONSON MARSH accepted a grayshirt offer, and then on signing day, Bradenton, Fla., Manatee's BRION CARNES inked his letter of intent to play for the Cornhuskers.

Marsh's grayshirt means that he will join Nebraska's team a semester late and then, he hopes, he will be given a chance to prove himself as a Husker signal-caller. If it doesn't work out for him on offense, he will be moved to safety.

Carnes, ranked 4 stars by Rivals.com, will follow in the footsteps of his cousin, legendary Cornhusker **TOMMIE FRAZIER**, in his attempt to run the Big Red's offensive attack.

Sandwiched in between the Marsh and Carnes commitments, Nebraska picked up a quarterback pledge for the 2011 recruiting class when Arlington, Texas, Sam Houston's JAMAL TURNER

ZUTT NEUPASKA GUMMILMENT LIST (3	2011	Nebraska Commitment List (3)
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Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Tyler Moore	OL	6-6	290	Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
Ryne Reeves	OL	6-3	286	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
Jamal Turner	QB	6-1	173	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)

announced his intention to play for Nebraska.

After attending a Husker game in Lincoln last season, as well as paying his own way to witness the Huskers' Holiday Bowl victory in San Diego, Turner became convinced that Nebraska was the place for him.

"I talked to coach (TIM) BECK," Turner said of his decision to end his recruitment. "I told him I was ready to commit. He was happy."

The reasons Turner has been high on Nebraska and why he made his verbal pledge this early were numerous according to the 6-foot, 170-pounder.

"I just have a love for the school, a love for Nebraska," Turner said. "I'm going to have a friend when I get up there (2010 Husker defensive end signee **DONOVAN** **VESTAL**); that's going to make it better for me.

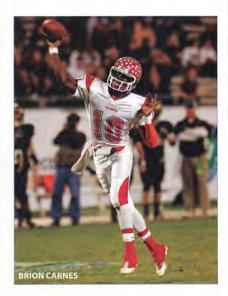
"The season they had, how they're becoming a better team and with their defense, everybody is seeing if they had a good offense, it's a better team. The defense is going to be there. I'm the type of player, if I can get there, I can change the offense - make them the team they hope to be."

As a junior, the dual-threat Turner had over 3,000 yards combined throwing and rushing, with more than 30 touchdowns. He was named a second-team all-state selection and the district MVP.

Turner also had early offers from Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt, Purdue and Memphis. He said that he was canceling planned junior-day visits to Alabama and Oklahoma. N







RecruitingNotebook

Huskers get quick start for 2011

BY SEAN STEVENS

ormer Oklahoma head coach

BARRY SWITZER was once quoted as saying, "It's not the X's and O's, it's the Jimmy's and Joe's".

Nebraska athletic director **TOM OSBORNE**, when he was NU's head football coach, was quoted during the 1996
Fiesta Bowl drubbing of No. 2-ranked Florida as saying, "It's not the game plans, it's the athletes".

Talent is the life blood of any football program, and the blood must keep flowing. With the ink barely dry on the 2010 recruiting class, Nebraska is already off to a great start for the 2011 class with commitments from offensive tackle TYLER MOORE (6-6/290) of Clearwater, Fla., and guard RYNE REEVES (6-2/295) of Crete, Neb.

Reeves was the first to pledge, choosing the Huskers in June after receiving a verbal offer at a Husker camp.

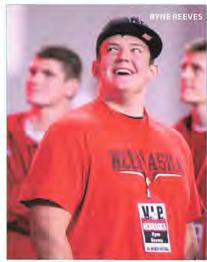
"Well I've been looking to go to Nebraska, so I thought better sooner than later," Reeves said. "Well I really like all the coaches when I was down there... I've always wanted to go there, so that's why I picked Nebraska. It feels pretty good."

Reeves, expected to play center at NU, is receiving attention from Alabama, Miami, Iowa and Kansas but remains a Husker commit.

"I'm all done though and am going to Nebraska. The Nebraska junior day and the camp this summer will be the only other events I go to."

Moore chose the Huskers in October over offers from Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Miami, Michigan and Tennessee among others.

"I've always wanted to go to Nebraska.



After watching them the last couple of years, I like where they're going. I just love Nebraska, so I wanted to go there."

OTHER TARGETS

Moore is planning to graduate in December so he can enroll early at NU. He's also doing his part helping recruit other Husker targets such as fellow offensive lineman CHRISTIAN WESTERMAN (6-5/290) of Chandler, Ariz., and running back AARON GREEN (5-11/186) of San Antonio, Texas.

"I've talked to them quite a bit," Moore said. "Westerman is wide open, but Aaron Green likes everything about Nebraska but still is waiting to see everything first. I'm just seeing what they like about Nebraska and talk them into coming along with me. I'd say, 'It would be nice to see you running behind me' with Aaron Green. If (Westerman) comes up for the junior day, which I think I'm coming up for too, hopefully I get to talk to him then.

Green is considered one of the top running backs nationally for 2011. As a sophomore he ran for over 2,000 yards and 27 touchdowns in Texas' Class 5A. Injuries during his junior season limited him to 1,133 yards and 11 scores. It's his electric ability in the open field that has schools like Alabama, Oklahoma, Notre Dame and USC excited though. Despite his brother Andrew being a redshirt freshman on the Nebraska roster, Green will do his due diligence before making a choice

"In the spring, I'm going to try to go to Baylor for their junior day, go to Nebraska, and try to get to their spring game," Green said. "Then Oklahoma, and UT (Texas) of course that's down the street. That's about it for the spring. I'm going to go to that FBU camp in Florida if I get invited again. This summer, I'm going to be in California again, and go out to USC."

Green debunked rumors that NU, Texas and USC lead.

"It's still pretty wide open," he explained. "You know, don't get me wrong, I like those colleges a lot but I like Oklahoma and [schools in] California, and all of them."

Westerman's offer count already tops 20, including Florida, LSU, Oklahoma, Texas and USC. He plans to camp at Florida, Arizona and Arizona State. His father, Chris, talked possible about some possible unofficial visits during the spring and summer.

"If we were going to slot schools, Texas would probably be No. 1, Nebraska would be No. 2, and we'd probably throw Florida in there, and a couple of others like Michigan, Ohio State and Oregon. We want to get out and see some other staffs."

"We're definitely interested in getting down to Nebraska at least for a scrimmage. This way we'd get to see the people, get to know coach (BO)

PELINI better, and get to see their setup."

Christian Westerman has a good chance to be a Rivals.com five-star prospect for 2011 after dominating 2010's No. 1-ranked player **RONALD POWELL** at the USC Rising Stars camp last summer.

ANOTHER LEGACY?

Along with Aaron Green, **DAGAN REED** (5-11/190) of Overland Park, Kan., has an older brother on the NU squad in sophomore tight end **KYLER REED**. Nebraska offered Dagan Reed a scholarship in September.

"Coach (BO) PELINI said that he thinks I'm just like my brother, and that he liked my explosiveness." N

NEBF	RASK	A'S O	FFIC	IAL VI	SITS
NAME	POS.	HT	WT	DATE	COMMIT
Brion Carnes	QB	6-0	181	1/23	Nebraska
Andrew Rodriguez	2 OL	6-6	298	1/22	Nebraska
Walker Ashburn	DE	6-3	245	1/15	Nebraska
Jake Cotton	DE	6-7	265	1/15	Nebraska
Bronson Marsh	QB	6-0	200	1/15	Nebraska
Kenny Bell	ATH	6-2	173	12/11	Nebraska
Braylon Heard	RB	5-11	180	12/11	Nebraska
Lavonte David	LB	6-1	214	11/21	Nebraska
Tyler Evans	ATH	6-2	180	11/21	Nebraska
Tyler Gabbert	QB	6-0	190	11/21	Missouri
Jermarcus Hardric	kOL	6-6	320	11/21	Nebraska
Jonathan Mack	DB	5-10	175	11/21	
Owa Odighizuwa	DE	6-3	234	11/21	UCLA
Anthony White	DT	6-3	305	11/21	Michigan St.
Corey Cooper	DB	6-2	203	11/6	Nebraska
Jay Guy	DT	6-1	300	11/7	Nebraska
Austin Hill	WR	6-3	192	11/7	Arizona
Derrick Malone	DB	5-11	165	11/7	Oregon
Joshua Mitchell	DB	5-11	165	11/7	Nebraska
Harold Mobley	ATH	6-4	225	11/7	Colorado
Tobi Okuyemi	DE	6-3	250	11/7	Nebraska
Tyler Slavin	WR	6-2	182	11/7	Arizona
Giovanni Bernard	RB	5-9	198	10/24	North Carolina
Curtis Carter	ATH	5-10	161	10/17	TCU
Quincy Enunwa	WR	6-2	200	10/17	Nebraska
Andre Hal	DB	6-0	170	10/17	Vanderbilt
Derron Smith	DB	5-11	173	10/17	Fresno State
Ciante Evans	DB	5-11	170	9/26	Nebraska
Chase Harper	TE	6-6	248	9/26	Nebraska
Joshua Reese	WR	6-1	182	9/26	Central Florida
Chase Rome	DE	6-3	290	9/26	Nebraska
Bud Sasser	WR	6-3	200	9/26	Missouri
Bobby Swigert	WR	6-1	175	9/26	Boston College
Colin Tanigawa	OL	6-3	286	9/26	Washington
Willis Wright	WR	6-2	185	9/26	Florida Int'l
Harvey Jackson	DB	6-2	185	9/5	Nebraska
Tejay Johnson	ATH	6-2	190	9/5	Rutgers
Mike Moudy	OL	6-7	291	9/5	Nebraska
Donovan Vestal	DE	6-5	240	9/5	Nebraska



IN STATE SPOTLIGHT

Omaha Millard North offensive lineman LINCOLN HANSEN was the last prospect in

Nebraska to receive a Division I scholarship offer in the class of 2010. The 6-foot-6, 300 pound Hansen committed to Eastern Michigan right before signing day.

CALLAHAN: Why Eastern Michigan?

HANSEN: That's a great question. No. 1, I went up there and absolutely loved the coaches. The people at the school there were absolutely amazing to me and my family. They just had great morals and really great coaching principles and philosophies up there. They weren't just there to win. They were there to win the right way with the right guys and run the football program the way it's supposed to be run, which I really liked. I also loved that they were Division I, because I know I can compete at that level and I'm excited to see what I can do at that level. Also, it's a great school. One of the things I'm looking into is secondary education, and they're a really well-known teaching school. The combination of those factors really let me know it was a great place to spend the next four to five years.

CALLAHAN: What's the worst thing about being 6-foot-6? **HANSEN:** Shopping. Just buying clothes is rough. You can't really find too much in my size. Driving is also tough. There aren't a lot of cars that fit a human being my size. Flying is also tough. I don't fit in planes. I love flying, but I just don't fit too well on planes.

CALLAHAN: Where do you end up shopping at?

HANSEN: Usually what I end up doing is finding a pair of jeans that fits, then after that I go online and order it. I go to Scheel's a lot and buy a lot of basketball shorts and loose-fitting clothes that I can buy in enormous sizes. My pant size is a 44 length, 36 waist.

CALLAHAN: What's the hardest class you've ever taken? **HANSEN:** Right now I'm in AP Latin. I love the class and I love the teacher, but learning another language at that high of a level is pretty tough for me.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite meal?

HANSEN: My dad actually makes an amazing steak. My dad's parents own a cattle ranch and they know what they are doing with beef. I'll sit down for a steak at my house any day of the week over going out to eat. I love the steaks he makes here.

AFROD

AURORA'S ALL-AMERICAN

Andrew Rodriguez couldn't wait for national signing day to come, but probably not for the reasons one might think.

Sure, Rodriguez was excited about inking his letter of intent to play college football at Nebraska. However, the 6-foot-6, 315-pound offensive line recruit was even more thrilled to see the recruiting process end.

"I'm just happy that
it's finally over and done
with and I can get all the
media stuff out of the way,"
said Rodriguez, the first
Aurora, Neb., player to sign a
scholarship offer from the Cornhuskers
since Jim Wanek in 1986. "It's a good
feeling that it's finally over."

Rodriguez's view comes as no surprise to Aurora football coach Randy Huebert.

"Andrew is actually kind a homebody and he doesn't like a whole lot of attention," Huebert said. "Don't get me wrong, he's always polite and he's done a really good job of talking to all the people who have been calling him, but he's a



PHOTO COURTESY OF AURORA NEWS-REGISTER

little bit tired of it.

"I think he thinks that it really isn't all that necessary for him. He's just that way."

Desired or not, Rodriguez's size and physical abilities have earned him plenty of attention during his high school career. Most recruiting services regarded Rodriguez as the top college football prospect in the state of Nebraska after starring for the Huskies, who captured back-to-back Class B state titles, posting a combined 25-1 record

over the past two seasons.

Rivals.com listed Rodriguez among the top 25 offensive tackles in the country and tabbed him as one of the top 250 overall prospects. SuperPrep ranked him among the top 10 offensive linemen in the country and Scout.com listed him as a top-15 offensive tackle and as the nation's No. 105 overall prospect.

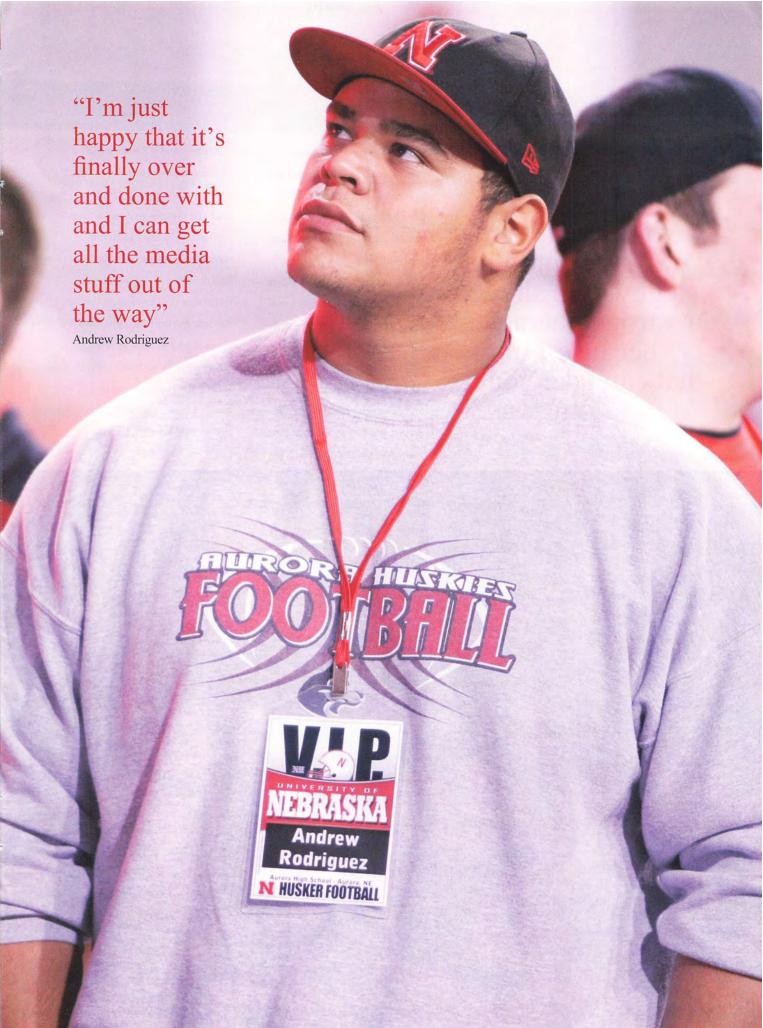
Rodriguez was also selected to play in January's U.S. Army All-America Game in San Antonio.

Rivals recruiting analyst Barry Every wrote that Rodriguez is "one of the prettiest-looking offensive linemen in the entire

country" and that he "is supported by a huge, athletic powerbase, which holds up a massive upper body. Not only does he have long arms, but they are very muscular for a lineman."

According to Every, perhaps the lone concern about Rodriguez is that he hasn't consistently faced top-level competition during his prep career.

Huebert said Rodriguez still has plenty of untapped potential and has made



A-ROD

"I work hard at what I do and I try to do it the right way. I want to be a guy who shows strong character because I think that can take you a long way."

Andrew Rodriguez

consistent gains in the weight room where he regularly rewrites the Aurora High School record book. Rodriguez bench presses 415 pounds, squats 515 and can hang-clean 400.

"I'm never satisfied with where I'm at right now," Rodriguez said.
"I feel like there's going to be an unlimited amount of potential in me. I know that I'm not the greatest and I'm not the best, but I think strong character can lead you to success, and I try to focus on that."

Huebert said it's impossible to measure how much of a factor Rodriguez was during Aurora's state title runs the past two seasons.

"Andrew meant a lot to our state championship teams and he's definitely an impact player," Huebert said. "I think most coaches will tell you that when you have a person like Andrew up front, it makes a big difference."

Still, Rodriguez insists he couldn't have accomplished anything on his own. He prides





himself in being "just one of the guys" and staying grounded, despite all the media attention and accolades he has received.

"I've had a great group of teammates and coaches and it was a lot of fun winning two state titles at Aurora," Rodriguez said. "I didn't want to get too big-headed. I'm just a laid-back person.

"I work hard at what I do and I try to do it the right way. I want to be a guy who shows strong character because I think that can take you a long way."

Huebert said Rodriguez plays the game with a passion that all coaches love to see.

"Andrew really gets fired up to play,"
Huebert said. "He's not overbearing
by any means, but he is emotional. He
loves the game, he loves to play and
he encourages others and he fires up
others, so he was a very good leader for
our team as well.

"When he breaks out in that smile of his – the one that just covers up his whole face – it just lights up the whole room. He's friendly, he's respectful, he's humble, he's fun to be around and he just has a lot of good qualities as a person."

Rodriguez was the first member of the Huskers' 2010 recruiting class, giving his verbal commitment to coach Bo Pelini's program as a high school junior in November of 2008.

Born in Harlem, he lived in New York City and Camden, N.J., earlier in his life. At age 13, he came to Nebraska to live with his brother and sister-in-law, Eric and Nicole Collazo, and after some initial resistance, Rodriguez said he has come to consider Nebraska as his home.

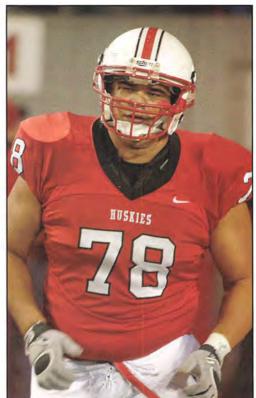
That fact made his college choice relatively simple.

"At first, I was getting a lot of letters from different colleges, but I never even opened them," Rodriguez said. "I just knew that Nebraska was going to be the college for me, especially academically because that's something that is very important to me.

"When I went on my unofficial visit, I knew that Nebraska just felt like home, especially with my family here and everyone here supporting me being close by."

Rodriguez is optimistic about where the Huskers are headed.

"I'm really excited to be a part of this program," he said. "So far, I think Coach (Bo) Pelini has done a really good job leading the team to success and he's told me that we're going to be an even better team in the future and I believe that. I think Nebraska has the potential to be one of the best programs in the country. I think with the players and this coaching staff, we have a lot of good things ahead of us." N



THE WHOLE STORY ON NEBRASKA FOOTBALL THIS SEASON

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF

BY JOHN TALMAN RECRUITING PUBLISHER, HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

2010 Signing Day one to remember for fans

TO NO SURPRISE, the collective breaths of Nebraska fans were held on letter-of-intent signing day for positive news.

After all, it's been a while since there were three major prospects set to make announcements, all potentially to Nebraska, on the big day symbolizing a recruiting cycle's finale.

You can't blame them. Whether it was quarterbacks named Carlyle Holiday (who chose Notre Dame over Nebraska on the big day back in 2000) or Rocky Hinds (the main QB target for Bill Callahan's first recruiting class) choosing the Trojans over the Huskers – there always seemed to be some letdown.

Did signing day in 2010 reverse the trend?

After all, Bradenton, Fla., Manatee dual-threat quarterback Brion Carnes was considered a lost cause after his weekend visit to Western Kentucky just days before signing day. Carnes reportedly committed on his trip there with his connections to the head coach.

For those not up late enough on Tuesday or early enough on Wednesday, the murmurs began to leak out on the Internet that it appeared Carnes was set to sign with Nebraska.

And he did.

Then there was 4-star safety Corey Cooper.

Nebraska fans didn't quite know what to think about the Chicago-area speedster who had been committed to Illinois but was still visiting programs for quite some time. Despite talk that it would be sooner by the star defensive back, Cooper said signing day was as soon as he'd be ready to announce.

It was clear his Nebraska visit impressed him the most. His connection with Chicago-born Husker coach Marvin Sanders appeared very strong. However, Cooper had kept things close to the vest.

Many Nebraska fans still didn't feel good. Yet again, maybe the benefit of the doubt is needed here.

After all, they'd seen other top defensive backs in years past go elsewhere. Whether it was Adrian Mayes, who was a Husker commit until he faxed LSU his letter-of-intent on the highly publicized day, or Edmond, Okla., star Reggie Smith, who signed with the in-state Sooners, Nebraska fans had felt disappointment.

Like Carnes, Cooper made his signingday announcement and he, too, was signing with the Huskers.

Even the nation's top junior college linebacker, Lavonte David, who had been committed to Nebraska since early December, signed with the Huskers. That signature was important to NU fans considering rumors that a late trip to South Florida had more meaning than just a fun stop at a local university for this Miamiborn recruit.

Sure, there was a little disappointment when the nation's No. 8 overall prospect, 5-star defensive end Owamagbe Odighizuwa, made his live ESPNU announcement that he was headed to UCLA over Nebraska and Oregon State. While maybe not as big of a need in terms of quantity in this class (Nebraska signed six defensive linemen), "Owa" was the

big target that Huskers fans were patiently waiting on.

The smoke cleared and the Huskers ended up with a top-25 ranked class according to Rivals.com.

The ranking doesn't show just how well they filled their needs.

It's hard to find one distinct need that they didn't fill in terms of adding depth to every position on the field.

Regardless of what a few "analysts" say, they added several difference-makers to the offensive side of the ball. Top-100 recruit and 4-star running back Braylon Heard has been named by numerous experts as one of the most underrated recruits not just in Ohio but in the country. Carnes brings a true dual-threat to the quarterback position, and California wide receiver Quincy Enunwa is expected to define the term "sleeper" recruit.

Tight end Chase Harper comes from the junior college ranks as a legitimate passcatching threat for the NU offense of the future.

It may not be skill positions, but let's not forget Jermarcus Hardrick who was a big loss for LSU when the Huskers benefitted from his commitment switch. Not to mention the potential of the top in-state prospect and U.S. Army All-American lineman Andrew Rodriguez.

It's an extremely solid class and a signing day Husker fans can look back on fondly.

And with the momentum and three commits Bo Pelini and his staff already have for 2011, it's good reason to be optimistic again when the big February day rolls around next year, N

2009RecruitingClass

2010 University of Nebraska Football Signees

Name (Rivals.com ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	School
Walker Ashburn ★★★	DE	6-3	245	River Ridge, La.	John Curtis HS
Kenny Bell ***	ATH	6-2	175	Boulder, Colo.	Fairview HS
Brion Carnes ****	QB	6-0	181	Bradenton, Fla.	Manatee HS
Corey Cooper ****	DB	6-2	200	Maywood, III.	Proviso East HS
Jake Cotton **	ATH	6-7	265	Lincoln, Neb.	Southeast HS
Lavonte David ****	LB	6-1	214	Fort Scott, Kan.	Fort Scott CC
Quincy Enunwa ***	WR	6-2	200	Moreno Valley, Calif.	Rancho Verde
Ciante Evans ***	CB	6-0	170	Arlington, Texas	Juan Seguin
Tyler Evans **	ATH	6-1	180	Waverly, Neb.	Waverly
Jay Guy ★★★	DT	6-1	300	Aldine, Texas	Eisenhower
Jermarcus "Yoshi" Hardrick 🖈 🖈 🛧	OL	6-7	315	Fort Scott, Kan.	Fort Scott CC
Chase Harper ★★★★	TE	6-6	248	Carsicana, Texas	Navarro JC
Braylon Heard ***	RB	5-11	180	Youngstown, Ohio	Cardinal Mooney
Harvey Jackson ★★★	DB	6-2	185	Missouri City, Texas	Hightower
Bronson Marsh **	ATH	6-0	200	Omaha, Neb.	Millard South HS
Joshua Mitchell ***	DB	5-11	165	Corona, Calif.	Eleanor Roosevelt
Mike Moudy ***	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo.	Douglas County
Tobi Okuyemi ***	DE	6-3	250	Plymouth, Minn.	Wayzata
Andrew Rodriguez ★★★★	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb.	Aurora
Chase Rome ****	DE	6-3	290	Columbia, Mo.	Rock Bridge
Donovan Vestal ***	DE	6-5	240	Arlington, Texas	Bowie
*-enrolled at Nebraska in January: *	**-Indica	ates mid-	ear signe	ap .	

^{*-}enrolled at Nebraska in January; **-Indicates mid-year signee

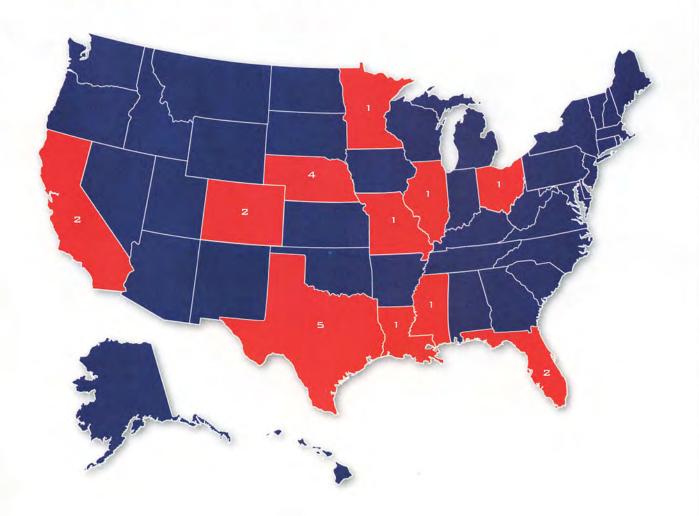
Total: 21; Freshmen: 18; Junior College Transfers: 3

By Position (First Position Listed): Offense (9): QB-Carnes; WR-Bell, Enunwa, T. Evans; OL-Hardrick, Moudy, Rodriguez; TE-Harper, RB-Heard Defense (11): DL-Ashburn, Cotton, Guy, Okuyemi, Rome, Vestal; DB-Cooper, C. Evans, Jackson, Mitchell; LB-David Athlete (1): Marsh

WALK-ON STUDENT-ATHLETES: The following student-athletes have accepted admission to the University of Nebraska and plan to join the Husker football program as walk-ons in the fall.

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Junior College
Josh Bart	DB	6-1	170	Aurora, Neb.	Aurora HS
Jason Dann	PK/P	6-0	170	Richardson, Texas	Lake Highlands HS
Joey Felici	DB	5-9	165	Omaha, Neb.	Millard South HS
Derek Foster	DB	5-11	175	Elm Creek, Neb.	Elm Creek HS
Andy Gdowski	DE	6-3	235	Grand Island, Neb.	Grand Island HS
Keegan Hughes	WR	6-1	175	Roswell, Ga.	Roswell HS
Tyson McGill	LB/FB	6-1	225	Norfolk, Neb.	Norfolk HS
JC Moore	DE	6-3	240	Fremont, Neb.	Fremont HS
Mark Pelini	OL	6-1	290	Youngstown, Ohio	Cardinal Mooney HS
Trevor Roach	LB/RB	6-3	230	Elkhorn, Neb.	Elkhorn HS
Dillon Schrodt	WR	6-2	175	Lincoln, Neb.	North Star HS
Zach Taylor	RB	6-0	195	Lincoln, Neb.	Southeast HS
Jeff Uher	DL/OL	6-2	270	Omaha, Neb.	Creighton Prep HS
Yusef Wade	DB/RB	5-10	170	Lincoln, Neb.	North Star HS
Austin Williams	DB	6-2	190	Omaha, Neb.	Burke HS
Tyler Wullenwaber	WR	6-1	180	Utica, Neb.	Centennial HS
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2010 Recruits by State



TEXAS (5)

Ciante Evans (Arlington); Guy (Houston); Harper (Pflugerville); Jackson (Fresno); Vestal (Arlington)

NEBRASKA (4)

Cotton (Lincoln); Tyler Evans (Waverly), Marsh (Omaha); Rodriguez (Marquette);

CALIFORNIA (2)

Enunwa (Moreno); Mitchell (Corona)

COLORADO (2)

Bell (Boulder), Moudy (Castle Rock)

FLORIDA (2)

Carnes (Bradenton), David (Miami)

ILLINOIS (1)

Cooper (Maywood)

LOUISIANA (1)

Ashburn (Kenner)

MINNESOTA (1)

Okuyemi (Maple Grove)

MISSISSIPPI (1)

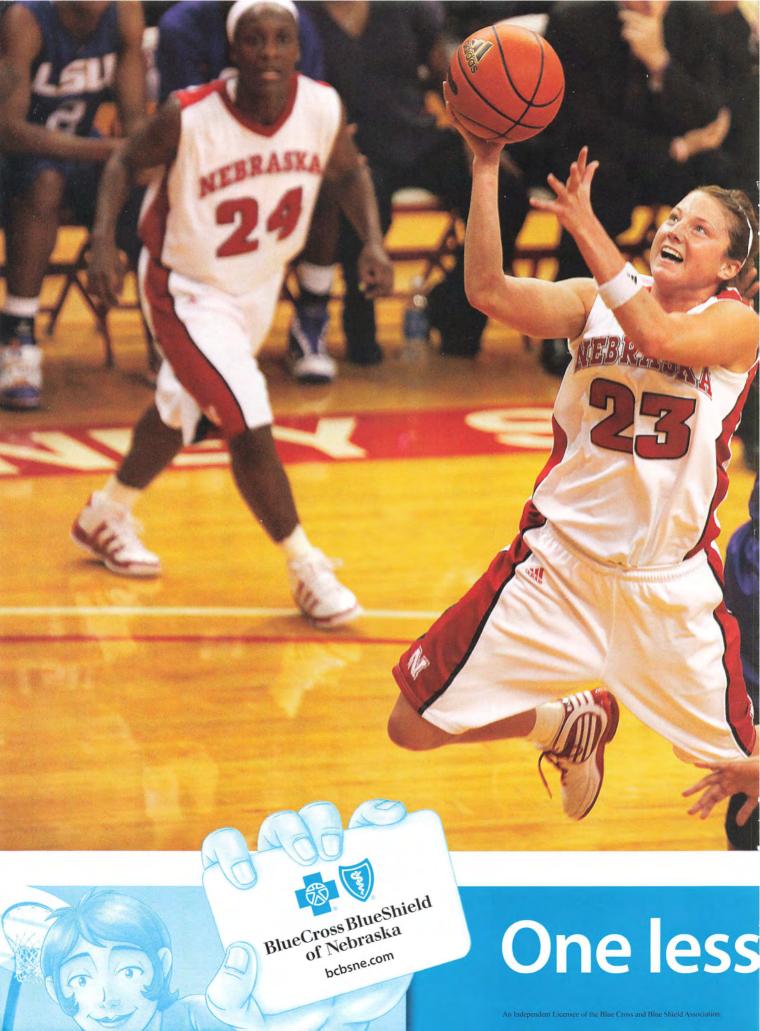
Hardrick (Batesville)

MISSOURI (1)

Rome (Columbia)

OHIO (1)

Heard (Youngstown).





SENIOR KELSEY GRIFFIN HAS EMERGED AS A PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR CANDIDATE, LEADING NO. 3 NEBRASKA TO A TOP-5 RANKING AND WINS OVER THREE TOP-10 TEAMS. PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

thing to worry about.

(Even at Tourney Time)

RecruitingRoundup



SURPRISE AND SUSPENSE

Letter-of-intent-signing day included a surprise as well as some suspense, though not for coach **BO PELINI**. "It played out exactly (how) I knew it was going to play out today," he said.

"There were no surprises."

There was at least one surprise for fans and media, however.

BRION CARNES, a quarterback from Bradenton, Fla., and the cousin of former Cornhusker All-American TOMMIE FRAZIER, was among the 21 scholarship players who signed.

Reportedly, Carnes was headed to Western Kentucky.

But "I knew yesterday that he was coming," Pelini said.

The erroneous reports were probably the opinion of "some blogger or whatever you guys call those people that really aren't informed but believe they are," said Pelini.

"You should have called me...I would have told you different."

He was joking, of course. He couldn't have said anything about Carnes, or any of the other recruits, even if he had been so inclined. Coaches can't comment on players until after they've signed letters of intent – or in the case of walk-ons, after they've been accepted for admission.

Anyway, Carnes' signing was no surprise, and apparently there was no suspense for Pelini, either, about whether COREY COOPER and OWA ODIGHIZUWA, neither of whom announced their intentions until signing day, would accept Cornhusker scholarship offers.

Cooper, a defensive back from Maywood, Ill., did. Odighizuwa, a defensive lineman from Portland, Ore., did not, opting for UCLA instead.

Backpedaling to the previous weekend, before Carnes made a final visit to Western Kentucky, Nebraska was looking at three highly regarded uncommitted players.

It ended up with two of the three, a strong finish any way you look at it.

RecruitingRoundup

"PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO TAKE
NOTICE OF WHAT WE'RE DOING. I ALWAYS
SAY, THE BEST WAY TO RECRUIT, THE
BEST RECRUITING TOOL, IS TO WIN."

BO PELINI ON THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM

BEST RECRUITING TOOL

Nebraska led the nation in scoring defense in 2009. And that helped in recruiting. However, "it's not just what the defense did, but where the program is and where it's headed,"

BO PELINI said.

"People are starting to take notice of what we're doing. I always say, the best way to recruit, the best recruiting tool, is to win. We're starting to do that. We're right at that point. We're right at that verge...of doing some great things in the program. That helps get people's attention. I believe we've gotten people's attention. But now we've got to take it to that next level."

OFFENSE OR DEFENSE

BRONSON MARSH, officially listed as "athlete," passed for just under 7,000 yards during his career at Millard South High School in Omaha, breaking a state record held by former Cornhusker SCOTT FROST. Even so, Marsh will begin his career at Nebraska at defensive back.

"I recruited him to play safety," BO
PELINI said.

Media reports prior to signing day indicated that Marsh would be a grayshirt, meaning he wouldn't enroll full-time and go on scholarship until second semester next school year.

However, "I don't want to get into that," said Pelini. "It's a numbers thing. We want him to be a part of our program and whether that becomes a grayshirt or not, that still remains to be seen."

Could he still play quarterback?
"Not unless I choose to move him," Pelini said.

DEFENSE DOMINATES

Eleven of the 21 scholarship recruits are listed as defensive players. In addition, **BRONSON MARSH**, who is listed as "athlete," apparently also will start out as a defensive back. Six of the defensive players are linemen. "We wanted to increase our depth on the defensive line and we were fortunate enough to get good players and guys that fit us," said **BO PELINI**.

"In the end, I don't know if we had six guys targeted going in, if that was the number we wanted. It might have been five. But if it's a really good player that we feel can help us win a championship, we're going to take them in the end and figure out a way."

Freshman **COLE PENSICK**, who redshirted last season, will move from the defensive line to center in the spring.

SIDELINES



INVESTIGATE ME

Soon after arriving at Nebraska in 1962, **BOB DEVANEY**, a Hall of Fame coach and consummate recruiter, said jokingly: "I don't expect to win enough games to be put on NCAA probation. I just want to win enough to warrant an investigation."

DID YOU KNOW?

Letters of intent were created in the early 1960s by the Collegiate Commissioners Association, which also administered them in an attempt to bring recruiting in college athletics under control. Initially, the association included seven conferences and eight independents, for a total of 68 schools. On May 20, 1964, binding "inter-conference" letters of intent were first signed.

Letters of intent are now managed by the NCAA Eligibility Center but still enforced by the Collegiate Commissioners Association, which includes 612 Division I and II institutions.

Recruiting Roundup



QUARTERBACKS NEEDED

Each of **BO PELINI**'s previous recruiting classes included a quarterback: **KODY SPANO** in 2008 and Cody Green in 2009. So he was asked if signing a quarterback in the 2010 class was a must, especially with **JAMAL TURNER** from Arlington, Texas, already committed for 2011. No, Pelini replied.

"Like at any position, we take the best guys available for the most part. Obviously, you always sit and say we have certain needs, certain numbers, and you want to have your numbers at certain levels at different positions. But you're not going to take somebody just to take somebody.

"We look at a lot of factors. Just because somebody is a talented guy or he's right for a lot of people doesn't mean he's right for us here at Nebraska. Character, intelligence, there's a lot of things that play a part – getting the chance to look a young man in the eyes."

The coaches liked what they saw when they looked in BRION CARNES' eyes.

"There's some guesswork involved, and you've got to go with your instincts and your gut and make sure you're picking the guys you feel are best for this place," said Pelini.

"I've believe we've been really good at doing that. It's the same with the quarterback position. We were fully prepared not to take a quarterback, but we had a few guys that we felt were right for us, and in the end, we found one that was the right fit for us."

Early on, remember, the Cornhuskers had a quarterback commitment from **TYLER GABBERT**. But he backed out and signed with Missouri, as his brother Blaine had done before him.

If Carnes hadn't signed with Nebraska, **BRONSON MARSH** might have begun his Cornhusker career at quarterback. But "Bronson Marsh was signed to play defensive back," Pelini said.

SIDELINES

WHAT'S UP-FRONT COUNTS

A year ago, Nebraska signed four scholarship offensive linemen. This year, the Cornhuskers signed three: junior college transfer

JERMARCUS HARDRICK,

MIKE MOUDY and ANDREW

RODRIGUEZ.,"We were very thin
at the offensive line position when
I first got here," said BO PELINI.

"Really, we were thin at all the line positions. I believe right now, we've added depth. I feel real good about it. I just look at our overall depth chart and it looks might different than when we got here. I'm really happy about that, especially if the guys develop and become the type of players we feel we can help them become. I like the way the roster looks right now."

SPEAKING OF SPRING

The good news is, quarterback

ZAC LEE, who underwent surgery
to repair a tear in the flexor
tendon of his right arm in January,
"is doing fine," BO PELINI said on
letter-of-intent-signing day.

The bad news is, he "probably" won't be able to compete in spring practice. "I know he won't be there for at least the beginning of spring," said Pelini.

The spring status of safety

RICKEY THENARSE also is in

question. But he has been cleared

for an additional season of

eligibility, and "he's doing really

well," Pelini said.

RecruitingRoundup

MORE ON QUARTERBACKS

Only three of Nebraska's 13 recruiting classes since **TOM OSBORNE**'s Hall of Fame coaching career came to an end haven't included at least one quarterback.

FRANK SOLICH had two of those classes.

The presence of ERIC CROUCH and

BOBBY NEWCOMBE (before he moved to wide receiver) might have been a factor. But for whatever reason, Solich didn't have much luck getting quarterbacks.

He recruited six, one of whom – CARL CRAWFORD – signed a major league baseball contract and never enrolled. Two eventually transferred and two were moved to wide receiver. JAMMAL LORD, who rushed for 2,573 yards and 24 touchdowns during his career, was far and away the best.

QUARTERBACK RECRUITS UNDER SOLICH, CALLAHAN

FRANK SOLICH

1998: None

1999: Carl Crawford, Jammal Lord

2000: None

2001: Mike McLaughlin, Mike Stuntz

2002: Curt Dukes

2003: Joe Dailey

BILL CALLAHAN

2004: *Jordan Adams, Beau Davis, Joe Ganz

2005: *Zac Taylor, Harrison Beck,

2006: None

2007: *Zac Lee, Patrick Witt

* junior college transfers

BILL CALLAHAN signed seven quarterbacks in his four recruiting classes, including three junior college transfers. He also got a transfer, **SAM KELLER**. **ZAC TAYLOR** was the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year in 2006.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

4 OR 5 STAR RECRUITS SINCE 2002:

2009.			٠									5	of	21	
2008.	,								,			3	of	28	
2007.					+	•		+		+	1	0	of	27	
2006.		,										6	of	22	
2005.			*		*	•			,		1	3	of	32	
2004.							•					2	of	20	
2003.												4	of	19	
2002.							•					6	of	21	

* rankings according to Rivals.com

To say Bo Pelini isn't a fan of recruiting rankings would be an understatement.

However, such rankings apparently serve a purpose. "Honestly, I don't pay much attention to it other than when I'm down and I really want to get a good laugh," he said.

"It makes me really laugh...it's amusing to me. It provides me with...a lot of enjoyment reading the analysis and the rankings and the stars and all the other stuff that goes into recruiting."

Certainly, such rankings are inexact. **JOE GANZ**, for example, was rated only 2 stars yet broke several school passing records when he finally got an opportunity late in his junior year. On the other hand, **NDAMUKONG SUH** was a 4-star

recruit, though it seems he also was underrated now.

Based on Rivals.com rankings beginning in 2002, Nebraska has landed only five 5-star recruits: **DEMORRIO WILLIAMS** (2002), **ZACK BOWMAN** and **MARLON LUCKY** (2005), **ANDRE JONES** (2006) and **BAKER STEINKUHLER** (2008). **OWA ODIGHIZUWA**, who picked UCLA over Nebraska, was rated 5 stars.

This year's class of 21 includes eight with 4 stars according to Rivals.com.

SIDELINES

FAMILY TIES

Among the 16 announced walk-ons for 2010 are the sons of two former Cornhuskers and the nephew of BO and CARL PELINI.

JOEY FELICI's dad Tony, who also walked on, played defensive end at Nebraska, while ANDY

GDOWSKI's dad Tom was a defensive tackle.

TONY FELICI and TOM

GDOWSKI were Cornhusker teammates, in fact (1980-81-82).

MARK PELINI is the nephew of Bo and Carl. And he's also from their high school in Youngstown, Ohio, Cardinal Mooney – where Mark was a teammate of scholarship recruit

BRAYLON HEARD.

Bo Pelini, whose given name is Mark, was asked what it would be like coaching a nephew with the same first name. "You know, I'm Bo," he said with a laugh.

Two years ago, Nebraska recruited another player from Cardinal Mooney, TIM

MARLOWE.

"Hopefully, they continue to have players coming out of there," Bo Pelini said. "Believe me, we'll go back there and recruit, but it's not just about Mooney because it's my high school.

"It's about guys that we feel can help us win championships."

RecruitingRoundup

EARLY START

JERMARCUS HARDRICK, JAY
GUY and CHASE ROME have enrolled
for second-semester classes and will
participate in spring practice. Midyear enrollees are becoming more
commonplace – CODY GREEN,

ANTONIO BELL and DEJON GOMES

did it a year ago. And all played without redshirting.

Green said he probably wouldn't have been able to play right away had he not gone through spring practice because of how much a quarterback has to learn.

Going back to the 2005 recruiting class, **BRION CARNES** is only the second quarterback of the last six that Nebraska has signed who won't enroll in January. **ZACTAYLOR**, **ZAC LEE**, **PATRICK**

WITT, KODY SPANO and Green all got a headstart. Witt and Spano, like

Green, came from high schools, as did **HARRISON BECK**, the other quarterback since 2005 who didn't get an early start.

In any case, "some guys it's right for; some guys it's not," **BO PELINI** said. "Some guys you'd encourage and other guys I would discourage. It depends on the situation and the maturity of the kid, and where he is academically. There are a lot of things that go into that decision. It becomes a bonus, I guess, because they're able to go through spring. But to me, there's plenty of time to be a college football player. I don't think it needs to be rushed. I don't encourage them to rush it.

"I believe they should enjoy their childhood and enjoy their senior year (in high school). If somebody feels like it's right for them to move on, it's up to them.

"But it's not going to make or break whether we recruit a young man or not."

HOME COOKIN'

Four scholarship recruits and 13-of-16 announced walk-ons are from Nebraska. "We got the guys that we felt could help us win championships," said **BO PELINI**. "We feel real good about the guys that we got, right across the board, not only in-state but out-of-state.

"I'm real happy with this class as a whole. It starts here in Nebraska. You hope you don't miss on guys. We also feel really proud of the walk-on group we're bringing in."

HOMEGROWN

BO PELINI

2010 (4/21): Jake Cotton, Tyler Evans, Bronson Marsh, Andrew Rodriguez 2009 (2/21): Cole Pensick, C.J. Zimmerer 2008 (6/28): Sean Fisher, *Ricky Henry, Micah Kreikemeier, John Levorson, Collins Okafor, Baker Steinkuhler

BILL CALLAHAN

2007 (3/27): Jared Crick, Niles Paul, Aaron Schulte

2006 (4/22): Ricky Henry, D.J. Jones, Corey Young, Ben Martin

2005 (3/32): Zach Potter, Robert Rands, Jeff Souder

2004 (5/20): Andy Christensen, Cortney Grixby, Mike Huff, Clayton Sievers, Ty Steinkuhler

FRANK SOLICH

2003 (5/18): Andy Birkel, Tierre Green, Josh Mueller, Bo Ruud, Brandon Teamer 2002 (7/18): Matt Herian, David Horne,

Mark LeFlore, Kurt Mann, Jay Moore, Cory Timm, Dane Todd

2001 (5/18): Titus Adams, *Clifford Brye, Seppo Evwaraye, Mike McLaughlin, Barrett Ruud

2000 (6/21): Ira Cooper, Mike Erickson, Steve Kriewald, Lornell McPherson, Chris Septak, Ben Zajicek

1999 (7/22): Judd Davies, Taylor Gehman, Tim Green, Blanchard Johnson III, Trevor Johnson, Chris Loos, Phil Peetz

1998 (9/20): Jon Bowling, Wes Cody, Aaron Golliday, DeAntae Grixby, Chris Kelsay, Nate Kolterman, Jeremy Slechta, Randy Stella, Wilson Thomas



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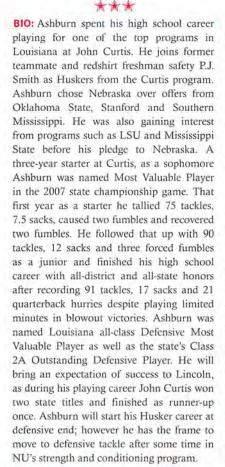


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WALKER ASHBURN, DL

River Ridge, La. (John Curtis) Height: 6-3 • Weight: 245 40-yard dash: 4.73



WHY WALKER CHOSE NEBRASKA: "It's exciting to have an opportunity to be part of that Nebraska defense. They believe they're going to be better every year. Coach Bo (Pelini) is going to continue to push for that."

JOHN CURTIS HEAD COACH J.T. CURTIS:

"He is a fast defensive lineman, a guy that can really run, He's a great pass rusher. He has great upper body strength. When you look at him you never guess that he's 250. He's probably going to be one of those guys who probably peak out at 275 (pounds) and he'll be a great rush end."



KENNY BELL, ATH

Boulder, Colo. (Fairview) Height: 6-2Weight: 175 40-yard dash: 4.45



BIO: Bell missed six games his senior year due to a serious injury that he suffered in the first game of the season. Shortly after returning the opening kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown, he was hit late out of bounds and shattered his collarbone. Extensive surgery to repair the break followed two days later where a titanium plate with ten screws replaced his entire collarbone. He rehabbed for six weeks and was back in time for the seventh game. Bell and his Fairview teammates went undefeated until they lost in the state semifinals. They ended up with a 12-1 record. Bell rushed for approximately 300 yards and had 350 yards in receptions for a combined five scores. He also had four interceptions. For his efforts, Bell was named first-team all-state at defensive back. As a junior, playing mostly running back, Bell rushed for approximately 1,000 yards and had 200 yards in receptions for a combined 12 touchdowns. He also had two kickoff returns and one punt return for touchdowns. Bell was named first-team all-state at running back and first-team all-conference as a kick returner. He was rated the No. 9 prospect in the state of Colorado.Bell chose the Huskers over offers from Texas Tech, Colorado, Arizona, Arizona State. Minnesota and others.

WHY KENNY CHOSE NEBRASKA: "It's hard to list all the things I like...The two or three things I think would be the pride and the tradition of the football team. It doesn't get better anywhere else. The coaching staff, unbelievable, coach Pelini, coach Gilmore will take everyone that plays under them to places they can't take themselves. I'd have to say the atmosphere as well. It's addicting."

FAIRVIEW HEAD COACH TOM MCCARTNEY:

"Kenny's by far the fastest player we've ever had. He's been timed at 4.29 in the forty hand held twice, and I know in a college camp last summer he jumped 40 inches in the vertical. With him being 6-2, and being able to stride like he does, he's just a tremendous athlete. He's a natural leader and a great person... He's also a real student of the game."



BRION CARNES, OB

Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee) Height: 6-0 • Weight: 180



BIO: Carnes signed with Nebraska after initially committing to South Florida and then switching his pledge to Western Kentucky. On Signing Day, the lure of the Big Red was too much for Carnes to pass up. A four-year starter at historic power Manatee. Carnes threw for 1,200 yards and 12 scores while rushing for an additional 500 yards and 5 touchdowns his junior season. Carnes followed that up as a senior by throwing for 2,509 yards and 25 touchdowns and adding 422 rushing yards and another 12 scores. He completed 58.7 percent of his throws. Carnes will graduate as Manatee's all-time leading passer. Carnes led Manatee to its eleventh state championship game. The Hurricanes finished as state runnerup in class 5A after an upset semifinal win over Ft. Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas. At the time, Aquinas was the No. 1-ranked team in the nation. For his efforts, Carnes was named Bradenton County Most Valuable Player by the Bradenton Herald and was also selected to play in both the Florida North vs. South and Police Athletic League All-Star games. Carnes is the cousin of former Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier, He chose Nebraska over schools such as Clemson, Georgia, South Florida, West Virginia, Cincinnati and Louisville. Rivals.com ranks Carnes as the No. 7 dual-threat quarterback nationally and the No. 44 player in Florida overall.

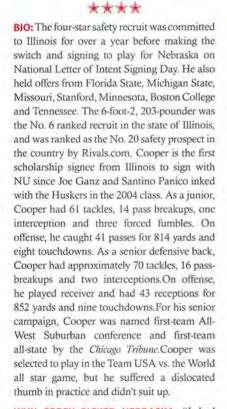
WHY BRION CHOSE NEBRASKA: "I thought it was a big opportunity for me. I thought about my goals and dreams and what I wanted to do. I always wanted to play in the National Championship and in a big bowl game. That and try to push myself to the Heisman Trophy."

MANATEE HEAD COACH JOE KINNAN:

"Both Tommie and Brion have great arm strength. Tommie was an excellent runner to go with his arm - he could have been a tailback. They have comparable speed though - somewhere in the 4.5-second 40 (yard dash) range. Brion has got the potential. Brion throws on the run very well and has incredible arm strength."



COREY COOPER, S
Maywood, III.
(Proviso East)
Height: 6-2 • Weight: 200
40-yard dash: 4.50



WHY COREY PICKED NEBRASKA: "I had been thinking about it for a long time, but I wanted to wait. I went down on my visit and I felt at home with the coaching staff and the players. I felt like it's a great opportunity for the academics and the football. (NU coach Marvin Sanders being a Chicago native) was from the same area, so that was cool."

PROVISO EAST HEAD COACH AARON PEPPERS: "You're getting a gem in Husker Nation.Corey's a great student athlete.You're getting a 6-2, 205-pound running dynamo. He's a great leader who will raise the level of intensity and make everyone around him better. If I had to compare him to a college player, he's as almost as physical as Taylor Mays, but with better ball skills. Like Ed Reed, once he gets an interception it's game on and he's going to try to score."



JAKE COTTON, DL Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) Height: 6-7 • Weight: 265



LAVONTE DAVID, LB
Fort Scott, Kan.
(Fort Scott Community College)
Height: 6-1 • Weight: 214



BIO: The younger brother of Husker tight end Ben Cotton and son of NU offensive line coach Barney Cotton, Jake Cotton went through a growth spurt that not only saw him add a few inches of height to his frame, but also saw his weight increase from 210 pounds as a junior to well over 260 pounds as a senior. Much of that new weight was added muscle due to the extra time Cotton spent in the weight room.Cotton played tight end and defensive end as a junior. but moved to offensive tackle and defensive tackle as a senior. Despite his brother and father both being on the offensive side of the ball, Cotton is expected to spend his Husker career as a defensive lineman. After back-to-back 1-8 seasons, the Knights rebounded to a 9-2 record, a district championship and a berth in the second round of the Class A state playoffs during Cotton's senior year. As an offensive lineman, Cotton was named first-team all-Nebraska by the Omaha World-Herald and first-team all-City and first-team Super State by the Lincoln Journal-Star after helping the Knights average over 275 yards and nearly 22 points per game while holding opponents to 225 yards and 10.3 points per game. Cotton was also named as one of the honorary captains of the Journal-Star's all-city

WHY JAKE CHOSE NEBRASKA: "The main reason I chose to go to Nebraska was the chance to play for my dad and play with my brother. It was also about me being able to stay close and watch my younger brother play for the next two years. Also, the thought of playing for Coach Bo (Pelini) and Coach Carl (Pelini) gives me goose bumps."

SOUTHEAST HEAD COACH JOHN LARSEN:

"He's got room to grow. He could be 280-290 easily with his frame. His footwork is good, and he's an avid weight-lifter. So I think there is a huge upside to him right now and I think he's going to get better and better. I think that's one of the intriguing things about him playing defensive line. With his size, extending his arms up, it really cuts down the passing lane for a quarterback. He's really good at that."

BIO: Coming out of high school at Miami (Fla.) Northwestern, David was a Rivals.com two-star recruit who committed to Middle Tennessee State over one other scholarship offer from Florida International. Academic qualification issues sent him to Fort Scott where he flourished. In his freshman year, David led the Jayhawk Conference with 93 tackles and 12 tackles for a loss. As a sophomore he lived up to his pre-season NJCAA all-American hype with 125 total tackles and 25 tackles for loss, leading the NJCAA in the latter category. David was named first-team all-Jayhawk Conference, first-team all-Region VI and firstteam NJCAA Football all-American while helping lead Fort Scott to a No. 2 national ranking in the final NJCAA poll. David was named the defensive MVP of the Citizen's Bank Bowl, featuring the top two teams in the nation according to the NJCAA. David earned double-digit scholarship offers, including schools such as Baylor, Houston, Kansas, Kansas State and Tennessee. Despite having a redshirt season available, he is expected to compete immediately for playing time at outside linebacker and also for a spot as the Huskers' linebacker in their Dime coverage unit. Rivals.com ranks David as the No. 2 junior college linebacker and No. 7 player at all positions.

WHY LAVONTE CHOSE NEBRASKA: "First and foremost was the academics. Secondly, was the way that they take care of their players. And me getting the chance to play right away. Brandon (Kinnie) told me that it was a great place and he was always happy about it. He said that they take care of you and get you right in your classes. I want to graduate, and I want to be able succeed in football."

FORT SCOTT HEAD COACH JEFF SIMS:

"Lavonte is probably the most natural football player I've been around in a long time. Where he excels above others is that he sees the whole field. He is also a very, very smart football player. I think what attracted the Nebraska staff to him is that, not only is he a great football player, but he has a very high football IQ."



QUINCY ENUNWA, WR

Moreno Valley, Calif.
(Rancho Verde)

Height: 6-2 • Weight: 200

40-yard dash: 4.5

BIO: After catching only one pass for 18 yards as a junior, Enunwa caught 59 passes for 899 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior. He helped lead Rancho Verde to an 11-1 record. Enunwa helped lead Rancho Verde to the California state playoffs as a senior, losing in the second round to Corona Centennial. Enunwa chose Nebraska over offers from Washington State and San Diego State along with attention from Miami (Fla.). Enunwa's offer list would have likely been longer had he not committed to Nebraska in October before his senior season really took off. After his commitment, his high school coach made it known to other interested schools that Enunwa was going to be a Husker. Enunwa becomes the second Rancho Verde player on Nebraska's roster, joining sophomore linebacker Eric Martin, Enunwa was named first-team All-Inland Valley League and honorable mention all-area by the Riverside Press-Enterprise and was chosen to play in the Inland Empire All-Star Game for the Riverside team. An explosive athlete, Enunwa sports a 4.5-second 40-yard dash and placed third in his league in the high jump as a junior with a leap of 6-foot-5. It's his toughness and ability to make tough catches in traffic that makes him a Division I receiver, though. Rivals.com ranks Enunwa as the No. 64 wide receiver nationally.

WHY QUINCY CHOSE NEBRASKA: "I really liked Nebraska's coaches. I like the school's tradition and their fans - those were two big things that got me to commit. I also liked how great the team was doing."

RANCHO VERDE HEAD COACH PETE DUFFY:

"Quincy's just been a one year starter for us. Last year, he played behind Terrence Miller who's at Arizona right now. He's more of a late developer. It all really came together for him in the spring and summer after he showed flashes last year, and when he put the pads on in the fall he really took off. I think he just has a great combination of size and physicality, and he's a natural ball catcher with his hands. He also does a great job of running hard after the catch."



CIANTE EVANS, DB

Arlington, Texas
(Juan Seguin)

Height: 5-11 • Weight: 170

40-yard dash: 4.5



BIO: Following up a junior season where Evans intercepted four passes and tallied 28 total tackles, he finished 2009 with 46 total tackles, three interceptions and seven pass breakups as a senior. His numbers both years were lower than expected because opponents avoided his side of the field, choosing to throw elsewhere instead of challenging Evans. After a 0-4 start to the 2009 season, Evans helped Seguin go 4-3 in district play and finish 4-7 with a loss in the first round of the state playoffs. For his efforts, Evans was named first-team All-District 8-4A and honorable mention Class 4A All-State by the Associated Press. Evans was also named as a member of the Dallas Morning News top 100. Rivals.com listed Evans secondteam all-state in class 4A as well as first-team class 4A all-DFW (Dallas-Forth Worth) area. Evans chose the Huskers over a double-digit list of scholarship offers, including schools such as Arizona State, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma State, TCU, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, and Utah. He offered his commitment to the Husker staff after a trip to Lincoln for a Junior Day in August, then made his only official visit for Nebraska's 300th consecutive sell-out celebration weekend. Rivals.com ranks Evans as the No. 46 cornerback in the nation and the No. 83 player in Texas at all positions.

WHY CIANTE CHOSE NEBRASKA: "It was really hard between Nebraska, Oklahoma State, Kansas and Utah. But, I just thought this was the best choice for me. It was just being able to be around the players, the coaches, and stuff. It was how the coaches interacted with the players."

JUAN SEGUIN HEAD COACH CARLOS LYNN: "He makes very few mental mistakes. He's the epitome of consistency. You know what you're going to get when you put him on the football field. He was being recruited by a lot of schools and basically, he was in the driver's seat. We tried to let him know that when he felt good about a situation, he needed to pull the trigger. Don't wait...And he felt good about the Cornhuskers, so he went ahead and pulled the trigger."



TYLER EVANS, ATH Waverly, Neb. Height: 6-2 • Weight: 180 40-yard dash: 4.48



BIO: During his junior year at Waverly, Evans ran for 900 yards and 13 touchdowns while throwing for 340 yards and two scores. His senior year, the Vikings balanced their offense out more and Evans threw for 885 yards and 10 scores while also running for 651 yards and 13 touchdowns. Defensively, Evans had 10 career interceptions and nearly 100 tackles and was a disruptive force in the Vikings' secondary. For his defensive efforts, Evans was named firstteam all-Nebraska as a safety by the Omaha World-Herald and first-team Super State by the Lincoln Journal-Star. The Journal-Star named Evans its honorary captain on defense. Despite the defensive accolades, Evans will start his college career on the offensive side of the ball in Lincoln as a wide receiver. An excellent all-around athlete, Evans won the Nebraska State Class B 100 meter dash as a junior with a top time of 10.89 seconds (electronic) and finished sixth in the 200 meters. Evans was also named first-team all-state in basketball as a junior, averaging 20 points per game. Evans was a member of the Nebraska Bison AAU basketball team which played in tournaments in Los Angeles, Calif., and Las Vegas, Nev., Evans committed to Nebraska over offers from Ohio and Princeton as well as interest from Colorado State, Kansas and Kansas State.

WHY TYLER CHOSE NEBRASKA: "Growing up 15 minutes from the stadium, it's always been my dream to play for Nebraska. Growing up I was always wearing Husker jerseys, and we've always had season tickets so I've been to most home games. Plus, Nebraska is all about academics and I'm big on academics, so that definitely played a part too."

WAVERLY HEAD COACH MIKE JOHNSON:

"I think we asked him to make everyone around him better. He distributed the ball and that was what we needed him to do. People didn't throw his way because he had eight interceptions last year. Tyler sees the game and it slows down for him. He's very seldom out of position. There weren't a lot of big plays against our defense and he was a big part of that."

5 Things Everyone Should Know About Identity Theft:

1. You're Only as Safe as Your Weakest Link.

The challenge in protecting your identity is that your personal information is everywhere. Even if you shred your private documents, or use secure websites and strong passwords, what about everyone else who has your Social Security number – like your doctor, dentist or the 17-year-old clerk handling your credit application at the electronics store? The problem quickly becomes obvious: you may be doing everything right, but what about everyone else who has your information?

2. Once Your Social Security Number is Out, It's Staying Out.

If your credit or debit card is stolen, you can replace it, but what happens when non-changing information like your Social Security number is stolen? The fact is, once it's out, it's out. Identity thieves buy, sell and trade stolen information, using it over and over again for years. Is your Social Security number really secure?

3. Anyone Can Be A Target.

Recent news reports revealed that even the chairman of the Federal Reserve¹ was one of the 9.9 million Americans who were victims of identity theft in 2008.² Other reports describe how one identity theft ring was responsible for two of the largest thefts in history, resulting in the theft of more than 130 million credit and debit card numbers.³ Think you could be at risk? (See #1.)

4. How Protected Are You?

You may think you're protected, but are you really? Your credit card may be safeguarded; but that won't help if thieves open new lines of credit. Credit monitoring will only alert you once something bad has already happened. Neither method will help prevent identity theft, nor resolve problems once you've become a victim.

5. There is Help.

LifeLock, the leader in identity theft protection, helps protect your identity – even if your information gets in the wrong hands. And at LifeLock, we are so confident in our service that we back it with a million dollar guarantee – if you become a victim of identity theft because of a failure in our service, we will help you fix it, up to one million dollars. Of course, restrictions apply and we want you to check it out by calling us now. Then use promo code 'FIVEFACTS' for a special offer on LifeLock.

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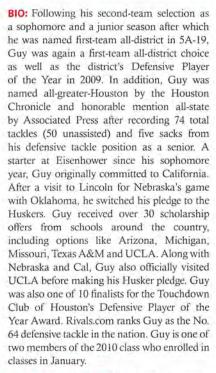
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JAY GUY, DT
Aldine, Texas
(Eisenhower)
Height: 6-1 • Weight: 300



WHY JAY CHOSE NEBRASKA: "You know the coaches were one (reason), the fans though and what they put into the stadium. That team is powerful, it's the whole school. The people really make the school. I was surprised everybody knew my name. It was the scheme, the opportunity open for someone like me. It was everything though - the fans, coaches, all that wrapped together."

EISENHOWER HEAD COACH RAY EVANS:

"He's one of those big kids who plays every down," Evans told the Daily Nebraskan. "You don't find too many kids like that. His motor runs all the time. He's a competitor; he can't stand to get beat. His work habits are just a phenomenon. In four years here, he has not missed a single workout. He's here every day after school working out. He's a team captain and just a great football player. (Nebraska) got a truly great player here. You just can't measure the kid's heart.



JERMARCUS HARDRICK, OL Batesville, Miss. (South Panola) Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College Height: 6-7• Weight: 315 40-yard dash: 5.00



BIO: Coming out of high school, Hardrick committed to attend Auburn, but academic concerns made him attend junior college. He was then a verbal pledge to LSU for six months before switching his commitment to Nebraska after his November official visit to Lincoln. The 6-foot-7, 315 pound Hardrick, who goes by the nickname "Yoshi", is used to success on the gridiron. His Batesville (Miss.) South Panola team went undefeated all four years of his high school career, with four state championships. Hardrick was instrumental in leading Fort Scott C.C. into the 2009 Junior College National Championship game. He estimated that he had 55 pancakes as a sophomore, and 40 pancakes as a freshman. Hardrick was generally considered one of the top two junior college offensive line recruits for the 2009 season. He was named first-team All-Jayhawk Conference, and an NJCAA first-team All-American. Hardrick was a four-star prospect by Rivals.com, and was rated No. 13 in the Rivals junior college top 50. Besides Nebraska, he also had offers from Arkansas, Ole Miss, Southern Miss and South Florida. Hardrick signed his LOI in the early junior college signing period in mid-December. He is already enrolled and on campus for the second semester, and he will participate in spring practice.

WHY JERMARCUS CHOSE NEBRASKA: "On my (official) visit to Nebraska, it was just the family atmosphere there. That did a lot for me. I really wanted to play with my teammates in junior college. 'BK' (Brandon Kinnie) was already there, and Lavonte David was going with me. I wanted to go to a place to concentrate on nothing but football and school, and I felt that at Nebraska. I just felt comfortable...and the academics - it's one of the tops in the nation."

FORT SCOTT HEAD COACH JEFF SIMS:

"What I like is Yoshi's intensity. He's going to bring it to Nebraska. He didn't lose a game in high school, and he went 20-3 with us. He's a finisher. He's not just going to block a guy, he'll snap him."



CHASE HARPER, TE

Corsicana, Texas
(Navarro Junior College)
Height: 6-5 • Weight: 251

BIO: Playing in a run-based offense at Navarro Junior College, Harper's numbers weren't what would be expected from most topranked tight ends. He tallied just six catches for 97 yards and two touchdowns on the year. However, Harper did what was necessary to help his team to a No. 3 ranking in the final NJCAA poll. Coming out of high school at Pflugerville, Texas, Harper was a member Iowa State's 2008 recruiting class after choosing the Cyclones over Baylor. Academic qualification issues sent him to Navarro where he added 30 pounds and refined his game. He arrived at Navarro with limited blocking experience, but by the end of two years he was much improved according to his coaches. Harper arrives in Lincoln with three years of eligibility after using his redshirt in junior college. As a high school senior, Harper caught 37 passes for 731 yards and seven touchdowns to earn 2007 all-District 25-4A honors as a tight end. Harper chose the Huskers over offers from Baylor, Iowa State, Kansas State, Miami and Missouri. Rivals.com ranks Harper as the No. 28 junior college player at all positions and the No. 2 JUCO tight end. Also a solid basketball player, Harper earned first-team all-state honors on the hardwood as a high school senior and played for Navarro's squad as a freshman.

WHY CHASE CHOSE NEBRASKA: The people were all amazing, from the players and coaches to the fans. They were all great. I have a real great relationship with coach (Ron) Brown. He's a great coach but he's also a great person. I liked all of the buildings and facilities too. The stadium was really nice and they get to play in front of 86,000 fans every single week. They have a (NCAA) record of 300 straight sellouts, which is really cool."

NAVARRO HEAD COACH NICK BOBECK:

"He knows that's a great place for him, with the use of tight ends and such up there, he knows it's a good fit for him. He's not waiting on anything else as far as I know."







BRAYLON HEARD, RB

Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney) Height: 5-11 • Weight: 180 40-yard dash: 4.4



BIO: Heard is the highest-ranked offensive prospect in Nebraska's 2010 recruiting class. Rivals.com lists Heard as the No. 57 player at all positions nationally, the No. 5-ranked running back and the No. 4-ranked player in talent-rich Ohio at all positions. After a junior year that saw him run for 959 yards and eight touchdowns, Heard exploded as a senior for 1,973 yards and 24 touchdowns rushing. He also caught two passes for 91 yards and two touchdowns and was named co-offensive Player of the Year in Ohio's third-largest classification while leading his team to a state championship. In the state title game, Heard rushed for 173 yards and two touchdowns while also throwing a touchdown pass and adding an interception on defense. Heard's other honors included first-team All-Ohio and first-team Northeast Inland All-District. Heard initially committed to West Virginia in July of 2009, but diligent recruiting work by Nebraska running backs coach (and fellow Cardinal Mooney alumnus) Tim Beck led to Heard switching his pledge to the Huskers over a double-digit list of offers including schools such as Cincinnati, North Carolina State, Penn State and Pittsburgh. Heard becomes the second Husker from Mooney, joining sophomore wide receiver Tim Marlowe. Mooney is not only the alma mater of Beck, but also NU head coach Bo Pelini and defensive coordinator Carl Pelini.

WHY BRAYLON CHOSE NEBRASKA: "It just feels like I know it's the right choice actually. Academically I'll be good, I can get a degree, and my style of running is unique up there. I know I'll be taken care of real well and it's basically family up there."

CARDINAL MOONEY HEAD COACH P.J. FECKO: "What makes him so special is the fact that he's not just what he does on the football field; what everybody sees on the highlights. Braylon's a special person off the field. He's got a great character, always has a smile on his face, he's a very warm and loving individual and I think throwing that together with his athletic ability really makes him a very special person."



HARVEY JACKSON, S

Missouri City, Texas (Hightower) Height: 6-2 • Weight: 185 40-yard dash:



BIO: Missouri City Hightower is a perennial powerhouse high school in the state of Texas that consistently sends out top prospects to Division I college football programs. Jackson was a backup to three scholarship defensive backs as a junior (Colton Valencia/Texas A&M, Alex Francis/Rice and Dele Junaid/ Mississippi), yet he still totaled 30-plus tackles, one interception and four passes broken up in 2008. That season, Hightower had 13-1 record and made it to the Class 5A-Division Texas state title game. In 2009, Jackson and his teammates charged through the regular season with a 10-0 record, before losing in the second round of the playoffs. As a senior, Jackson had 53 total tackles, seven pass breakups, and two interceptions from his safety spot. Though he did not attend Nebraska's Big Red Football School last year, Jackson turned heads at Oklahoma's summer camp. He earned the following praise from the Sooners' Rivals site: "Perhaps no player was more intriguing than Harvey Jackson. The 6-foot-2, 185-pound defensive prospect could play any number of positions...His ability to cover some of the elite receivers at the camp makes him a scary possibility as a safety." Jackson was rated a Rivals.com three-star, and the No. 55 safety prospect in the country. Besides Among Jackson's 11 scholarship offers, were tenders from Oklahoma State, Utah, Missouri, Northwestern and Houston.

WHY HARVEY CHOSE NEBRASKA: "It wasn't what I expected, it was so much better. I liked everything about it—the fans, the coaches, and the players. The best was the game...just the whole game with the fans and everything. I talked with coach (Bo) Pelini for quite a while during the weekend, and I had a meeting with him today where I committed. He was happy. They said I'll be a safety."

HIGHTOWER HEAD COACH SHANE HALLMARK: "Harvey's a good player with tremendous upside. He's a physical tackler who covers a lot of ground fast. He has good ball skills; he plays the ball in the air well. He's a quiet person who just goes about his business. He is a good student who will be a good player for y'all."



BRONSON MARSH, QB/S

Omaha, Neb. (Millard South) Height: 6-0 • Weight: 200 40-yard dash: 4.50



BIO: After coming up short to Millard West in the 2008 Class A state title game, Millard South quarterback Marsh guided the Patriots to an undefeated 13-0 record and the Class A state championship in 2009. The 6-foot, 205-pound Marsh set career records for passing yardage and total offense in 11-man Nebraska high school football. He also broke Scott Frost's Nebraska high school record with 6,826 career total yards (2,425 yards this season). Marsh was named first-team All-Metro, first-team allstate, and he was a member the Omaha World Herald's All-Nebraska team and the Lincoln Journal Star's Super State team. Marsh was a Rivals.com two-star, and was rated the No. 5 prospect in the state of Nebraska. After initially pledging to Division II UNO, Marsh accepted a grayshirt to attend Nebraska. Under the grayshirt agreement, Marsh signed a letter of intent with the rest of NU's 2010 recruiting class, but he will wait until January 2011 to enroll full time in Lincoln with a scholarship. He will participate in spring practice 2011 and begin that season as a true freshman. Marsh can still be on campus, but he just can't be coached by the Husker staff. Marsh will get to do the "Bridge program" this coming summer, which allows him to enroll part time in school and participate in 10 weeks of conditioning drills.

WHY BRONSON PICKED NEBRASKA:

"Coach (Barney) Cotton tried to tell me exactly what (a grayshirt) was. He said that I just have to sit out for a semester. Coach (Bo) Pelini told me that I'd start out wherever I want to, which is at quarterback. If I prove myself there, I'd stay there, but if it doesn't work out I'd move to safety. He thought I'd excel at safety. But I'll get my shot at quarterback."

MILLARD SOUTH HEAD COACH ANDY MEANS: "Well, I think Bronson is coach (Bo) Pelini's type of player. He's tough, fast and smart. He's someone who loves the game and has a passion about the game. He'll do a great job there. He's mentally and physically tough. He's smart, fast, quick; he's the whole package. He's humble and gets along with everyone."





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JOSHUA MITCHELL, CB
Corona, Calif.
(Eleanor Roosevelt)
Height: 5-11 • Weight: 165
40-yard dash: 4.40

BIO: The Nebraska coaching staff offered and made a run at four players on the Corona (Calif.) Eleanor Roosevelt team, but ended up signing only Mitchell.Playing in one of the toughest leagues in the Golden State, the 5-foot-11, 165-pounder helped lead the Mustangs to an 8-3 record and the state playoffs in 2009. As a junior, Mitchell had 74 total tackles and one interception. He finished his senior campaign with 41 total tackles, five interceptions, three of which he returned for touchdowns. He also had two punt returns for touchdowns. Mitchell was named first-team all-league as a cornerback, and first-team allconference as a punt returner. Mitchell was a Rivals.com three-star, and he was listed as the No. 55 high school cornerback in America. In the California Top 100, he was rated as the No. 97 overall. Mitchell took an official visit to Colorado State, where his older brother plays for the Rams, before making an official visit to Lincoln. Mitchell committed to play for the Huskers immediately after his visit to NU was completed. Besides Nebraska and Colorado State, he also had acquired offers from Washington State, San Diego State, Idaho and UTEP. Mitchell's father, Mario Mitchell, played cornerback for San Diego State in the

WHY JOSHUA CHOSE NEBRASKA: "After getting up here, seeing the facilities, meeting the people, fans, teammates, the coaches everybody - I just thought it was perfect place for me to play football. The atmosphere at the game and after the game, and the positive vibe from all the people sold me on Nebraska. Probably the Tunnel Walk was the highlight. After going through it before the players came out, it's cool to think I'll get to experience it myself in college."

ROOSEVELTHEAD COACHBILL STACY: "Josh is a very explosive player. For us he was a punt returner and defensive back. He has the ability to drive on the ball. He's a great cover corner. He was a state finalist sprinter in the 4x400 relay.He's a good guy, and he was elected as a captain for us."



MIKE MOUDY, OL Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County) Height: 6-7 • Weight: 291 40-yard dash: 5.00

BIO: One of two 2010 signees from the state of Colorado, Moudy committed to Nebraska after making several unofficial visits to colleges in the Big 12 and Mountain West conferences in the spring of 2009. Moudy gave the Nebraska coaches the news of his decision to become a Cornhusker after he attended the Red-White spring game, Moudy's Douglas County team finished the 2009 season with a 4-6 record after tallying 2,706 yards of total offense. The 6-foot-7, 295-pound offensive lineman was named first-team all-conference in the Continental League, and first-team All-Colorado.He was also named student athlete of the week by Channel 53.A Rivals.com three-star, Moudy was rated the No. 8 prospect in the state of Colorado and the No. 35 offensive tackle in the country.Possessing a good blend of strength (350-bench press and 545-pound squat) and athleticism (5.0-second 40-yard dash), Moudy was selected to play in the USA vs. World postseason all star game in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The game, which was televised by the NFL Network, matched 45 of the country's top high school seniors against a "World" team composed of the best players 19 and under from outside the country. Moudy chose NU over offers from Stanford, Kansas, Kansas State, Colorado State, Wyoming and Northwestern. He has been accepted to study in Nebraska's sports nutritional science program.

WHY MIKE CHOSE NEBRASKA: "I know a lot of people choose a school based on facilities, campus or location, but the main factor for me was the coaches. My decision was based on coach Pelini, coach Cotton, coach Gilmore and the rest of the staff. They are the kind of coaches that will be able to make me the best I can be but at the same time I'll be able to have a great relationship and bond with them."

DOUGLAS COUNTY HEAD COACH JEFF KETRON: "I think Mike's strength is his best attribute. A lot of times you get these big kids in high school that are just kind of sloppy. But that is not the case with Mike. He is a big, strong kid. He does exceptionally well in the weight room."



TOBI OKUYEMI, DE
Plymouth, Minn.
(Wayzata)
Height: 6-3 • Weight: 250
40-yard dash: 4.7

BIO: Okuyemi is the first signee from the state of Minnesota since Nate Swift and Lydon Murtha joined the Huskers in 2004. Okuyemi helped Wayzata post a 9-2 record in 2009, as the Trojans made it as far as the Class 5A state quarterfinal game under head coach Brad Anderson. After tallying 50 total tackles, with 15 for loss and four sacks as a junior, Okuyemi followed that up with 61 tackles (32 solos) with 17 for loss and nine sacks. He is one of three defensive end recruits in this class. The 6-foot-3, 250-pound standout earned first-team allconference, first-team all-metro, and first-team all-area honors this past season for Wayzata. Okuvemi was designated a first-team all-state defensive end by both the Associated Press and the Minneapolis Star Tribune. He was rated a Rivals.com three-star, and the No. 6 prospect in the state of Minnesota this year. He was rated among the top 70 players in the Midwest region according to SuperPrep Magazine. Okuyemi attended the NU Red-White spring game and the Husker junior day in July, before he took his official trip to Lincoln for the Oklahoma game in November. Okuyemi committed to play for the Big Red at the end of his official visit. He chose Nebraska over scholarship offer from Michigan, Michigan State, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas and others.

WHY TOBI CHOSE NEBRASKA: "Well, I mean, from day one, when I first received my offer from the University of Nebraska a while back - I was really excited about it with the history and excellent football. I went to their spring game, I saw all these people going to a scrimmage. That gave me a great feeling about it and meeting all the coaches."

WAYZATA HEAD COACH BRAD ANDERSON:

"Tobi was for us a very big playmaker type of player. He has very good closing speed, was very difficult to block one-on-one, and he provided off-the-edge pressure. He is a high quality individual who was selected by his teammates to represent them as a captain."

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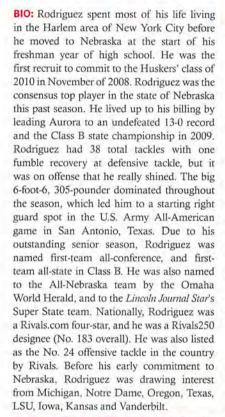




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ANDREW RODRIGUEZ, OL Aurora, Neb. Height: 6-6 • Weight: 305 40-yard dash: 5.4



WHY ANDREW CHOSE NEBRASKA: "I was just thinking last night, I thought about staying in-state with my family and friends, and I started playing football in Nebraska – so I'm going to stay in Nebraska...The academic standpoint there, they're really on top of you about your academics. There's no acceptance of failure there. They just check in with them grade-wise."

AURORA HEAD COACH RANDY HUEBERT:

"We told Andrew that he can go as far as he wants, just as long as he works hard and I think he knows that....He's a young kid and a big kid that has the frame to play some pretty big time college football. Being 6-6 and 300 pounds and just a young kid, he's just a guy that has a great work ethic and he's a great team player."



CHASE ROME, DL
Columbia, Mo.
(Rock Bridge)
Height: 6-3 • Weight: 290
40-yard dash: 4.7

BIO: Rome was born and raised in Florida, but he moved to Columbia, Mo., four years ago. Though his family has box seats at Faurot Field and he attended a lot of Missouri home games, Rome never seriously considered becoming a Tiger. Wisconsin was the first school to offer him shortly after signing day 2009, with schools like Florida, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, South Carolina, Iowa, Tennessee, UCLA, Michigan and many others quickly following suit. Rome was one of several Husker signees who were verbal pledges to other schools at one point in time. He had originally verbally pledged to Oklahoma State in late March, but after having second thoughts and making several visits to Lincoln, Rome committed to Nebraska in October. Because he had done the required academic work to be a December graduate from Rock Bridge, Rome has already enrolled for the second semester at NU and he will participate in spring drills. The 6-foot-3, 290-pound Rome played defensive end in high school, and as a senior he had 74 total tackles, 15 tackles-for-loss, and seven sacks. The Husker coaches have told Rome that he is projected to play at defensive tackle. Rome was a Rivals. com four-star, and he was rated the No. 7 prospect in the Show Me State and the No. 30 interior defensive lineman in the country.

WHY CHASE CHOSE NEBRASKA: "The more I learned about it, the more I liked it and I could even see myself there. Then I started feeling comfortable with the coaches. High school football is a grind in itself, and then there is college... it's like my head coach said, you have to be happy with the people around you since you'll be fighting [with them] and playing hard. It had been floating around for a while, and I woke up one day. I was like you know, I need to do this."

ROCK BRIDGE HEAD COACH A.J. OFODILE:

"Chase has around a 3.0 and a 23 ACT. (He is) a rare athlete for (his) size. Chase is between 280-285 and I would guess, one of the fastest athletes out there at that size."



DONOVAN VESTAL, DE
Arlington, Texas
(Bowie)
Height: 6-5 • Weight: 240
40-yard dash: 4.7

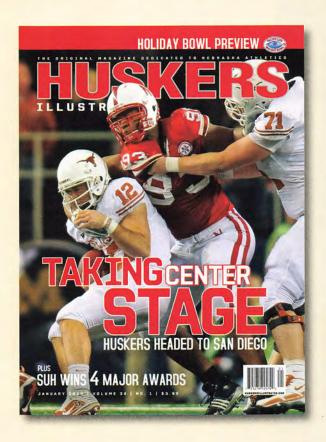
BIO: Vestal is one of five Texas prospects in Nebraska's 2010 recruiting class. He is one of three defensive ends among an impressive group of defensive linemen joining the Huskers' program. Vestal has been both a defensive end and a defensive tackle during his high school career, and as a junior he helped lead Bowie to an 11-2 record. This past season Vestal helped his Bowie team to a 10-3 record, including a berth in the Texas Division 5A state playoffs. The 6-foot-5 and 245-pound defender with a long wing span had 55 total tackles, 7.5 sacks, one interception, and one defensive touchdown as a senior. Vestal was rated a three-star recruit by Rivals.com, and the No. 30 strongside defensive end in the country. He was listed as the No. 93 prospect overall in the state of Texas in 2009 by Rivals. SuperPrep magazine ranked Vestal among the top 110 prospects in the state of Texas. Playing in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Vestal earned second-team all-metro and second-team all-area honors. He was also named the 5A Region District 4 post-season defensive MVP, and among the top 50 players in the Dallas-Fort Worth area by the Dallas Morning News. Vestal chose Nebraska over 11 other Division I offers, including from the likes of Oklahoma State, Missouri and Arkansas.

WHY DONOVAN CHOSE NEBRASKA: "I loved it. The atmosphere was great - coaching staff, people, and I've got to give a shout out to (recruiting assistant) Scott (Johnston). He showed me around, took me everywhere. I mean the campus was great. I like how it's all pulled together, and I don't have to go all away across campus to find my classes. Getting a 'Blackshirt', and how much it means to me, was important."

BOWIE HEAD COACH KENNY PERRY: "He's almost 6-6, at 6-5.5. So that's the first thing. He's an aggressive kid, so I think when you put those two things together you can find a place for a kid like that. He's a very physical player and he's a very smart kid."

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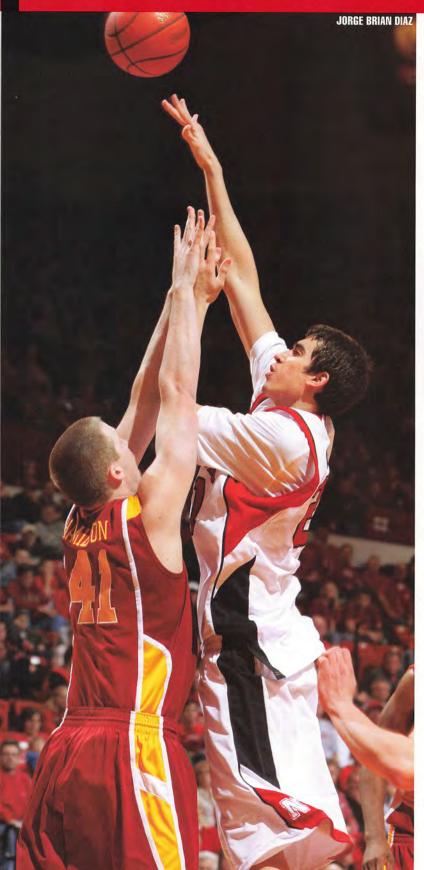
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Men's Basketball



BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Diaz continues to face battle of bulk

ike many people trying to control their weight, Jorge Brian Diaz tries to follow dietary instructions.

It's just that his instructions are, shall we say, a bit more liberal than for somebody trying to follow through on a New

Year's resolution.

What exactly do nutritionists tell Diaz?

"Just eat all of it, as much as I can," he said.

Quite the deal, right?

Well, for Diaz, a freshman on the Nebraska men's basketball team, having the green light to eat everything in sight isn't as delightful as you might think. Diaz said he's never been a big eater – which helps explain why his 6-foot-11 frame carries a mere 228 pounds these days.

"I don't eat a lot. I just can't," Diaz said. "But I'm working on that. I know I have to do that if I want to do good in this conference for the next couple of years."

The conference, of course, is the Big 12, where players weighing 228 pounds are more apt to play point guard, not center.

That's why Diaz said his goal is to eventually weigh 245 or 250. The key word, though, is "eventually" because Diaz knows he won't get that big by the end of this season.

"I think eventually I can get there, if I try my hardest," he said. "It starts with eating, and then working really hard in the weight room."

Diaz said he spends four to five days a week lifting weights, with guidance from basketball strength coach Rusty Ruffcorn.

"I try to lift as hard as I can. Rusty, he tries to push me," Diaz said. "I feel a lot stronger when I'm playing."

Diaz, a native of Puerto Rico, said he never ate much as a child. When he arrived in Nebraska in January of 2009, he had problems adjusting to American food.

"My stomach was kind of hurting," he said. "I don't know. Maybe it was more greasy or something. My stomach was not good."

Suddenly, the player who needed to gain weight quickly lost 5 pounds.

Diaz has since discovered the steaks and pasta on the Nebraska training table. He devours protein shakes and bowls of cereal. He's become a regular patron of Subway and Chipotle, his favorite fast-food restaurant.

"I eat a lot of times, four or five times a day, but it's not like big, big meals," Diaz said. "I don't know. I just get full quick."

While Diaz continues to work to improve his physical strength, he's already seen gains in his mental strength.

"I trust myself more now than when I started the season," said Diaz, who's averaging about eight points per game. "My teammates trust me, too. My head is more positive now, and I think that's helping me a lot."

Diaz cited his improved confidence as the reason he's played two of his best games against Big 12 leader Kansas, a team ranked No. 1 nationally most of the season. He scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds in a loss at Lawrence and had 15 points in a loss in Lincoln.

In those games, he faced 6-11, 245-pound center Cole Aldrich, a pre-season All-American.

"I didn't care if I did bad or good. I just wanted to play hard," Diaz said. "My shots just went in. I just thank God I could do it against good teams.

"I think I did good on the offensive part, but I made some mistakes, too, like rebounding. It was not like I did great."

Nebraska coach Doc Sadler, who's always been impressed with Diaz's offensive skill around the basket, was encouraged by Diaz's rebounding performance against Kansas.

"He's getting more aggressive on the defensive end, also," Sadler said. "People aren't pushing him out of the way as much. He's learned to use his legs. He's getting better."

ANDERSON'S MILESTONE

Senior Ryan Anderson went over 1,000 career points when he made a 3-pointer in a Feb. 6 game at Kansas. He entered the game with 998 career points, and scored 12 against the Jayhawks.

"I guess that's a great accomplishment in some people's eyes, but I'd trade it in for 1,000 wins," Anderson said after the Huskers' 75-64 loss to top-ranked Kansas.

Anderson, a native of Seattle, is the 25th player in Nebraska history to score at least 1,000 points. He's only the second Husker, though, to have at least 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 150 3-pointers, 150 assists and 150 steals for his career.

The other was Erick Strickland.

YOUNG HUSKERS, SLOW START

Nebraska has played with as many as four freshmen on the court and at times has had no players on the court with any Big 12 Conference experience prior to this season.

Perhaps that's why league coaches predicted in October that Nebraska would finish 11th in the conference.

Sadler, though, said he's not been rattled by the Huskers' slow start in conference play. They started 0-5 and reached the midway point of the schedule at 1-7.

"I think everybody knew what was fixin' to happen, but when it does happen, people act surprised," Sadler said. "That's why I said from day one, that I'm the one that's got to keep my patience, because I know other people won't."

Nebraska's scholarship freshmen – Diaz, Brandon Ubel, Ray Gallegos, Eshaunte Jones and Christian Standhardinger – have accounted for nearly 40 percent of the team's scoring.

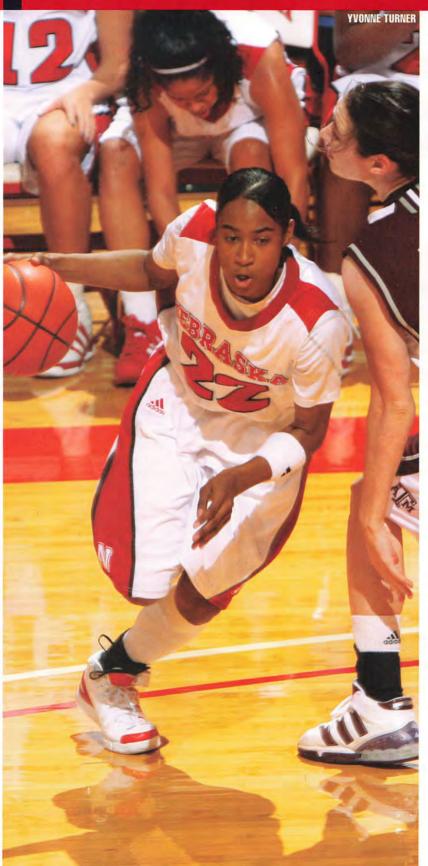
"I think them guys are going to be good,"
Sadler said. "I think they understand. I
think more than anything, you talk to them
from day one about how difficult it's going
to be, but until you go through it, you don't
understand." N

2009-10 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Nov. 6 Arkansas-Fort Smith (exh.), W, 86-66
- Nov. 10 Hastings (exh.), W, 71-39
- Nov. 14 South Carolina Upstate, W, 76-49
- Nov. 18 at Saint Louis, L, 69-55
- Nov. 21 TCU, W, 90-77
- Nov. 24 UMKC, W, 70-48
- Nov. 29 at USC, W, 51-48
- Dec. 2 Texas-Pan American, W, 81-53
- Dec. 6 at Creighton, L, 67-61
- Dec. 10 Chicago State, W, 74-39
- Dec. 12 Oregon State, W, 50-44
- Dec. 19 Jackson State, W, 57-41
- at Las Vegas Classic
- Dec. 22 vs. Tulsa, W, 74-70
- Dec. 23 vs. BYU, L, 88-66
- Dec. 29 Southern Utah, W, 94-61
- Jan. 2 Maryland Eastern Shore, W, 74-60
- Jan. 5 Southeastern Louisiana, W, 77-59
- Jan. 9 at Texas A&M, L, 64-53
- Jan. 13 Kansas, 8 p.m., L, 84-72
- Jan. 16 Iowa State, L, 56-53
- Jan. 23 at Missouri, L, 70-53
- Jan. 27 at Colorado, L. 72-60
- Jan. 30 Oklahoma, W, 63-46
- Feb. 2 Kansas State, L. 76-57
- Feb. 6 at Kansas, L, 75-64
- Feb. 10 Baylor, L, 55-53
- Feb.13 at Texas, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
- Feb. 17 at Kansas State, TBD
- Feb. 20 Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
- Feb. 24 at Iowa State, TBD
- Feb. 27 Texas Tech, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
- Mar. 2 Colorado, TBD
- Mar. 6 at Okla. St., 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network at Big 12 Championship

Mar. 10-13 at Kansas City, Mo. (Sprint Center)

Women's Basketball



BY CURT MCKEEVER

Magical run continues for unbeaten Huskers

et's remember that coaches tend to go a bit overboard praising their opponents.

Thus, when Texas A&M's Gary Blair started in on the Nebraska women's basketball team after the Huskers had matched a fearless effort by the Aggies and beat them 71-60 on Feb. 6 in Lincoln to improve their record to 21-0, a lot of folks could have accused him of excessive gushing.

"You've got something special, and this is a team that has a great chance of getting to that Final Four, Sweet 16 or Elite Eight," Blair said.

One thing you ought to know about Blair. He knows about such things.

Now in his 25th year in the college ranks, he's taken seven teams to the Sweet 16. Two years ago, he steered A&M to its first Elite Eight. And in 1998, his Arkansas club made the Final Four.

So take his appreciation for Nebraska's dream season like it's worth its weight in gold.

When sizing up the Huskers, he can't help but think of the first Connecticut team that got to the Final Four in 1991.

"A bunch of no-names that play well. And this is what this team is right here," he said. "When you don't have some of those All-Americans, you don't have to worry about ego."

Actually, he knows senior forward Kelsey

Griffin is worthy of such esteem. He also sees freshman point guard Lindsey Moore having the same potential.

But his point about NU may have partly stemmed from the fact that a year ago, A&M drilled the Huskers by 43 points.

"I think it's a good example of where we've come from and where we're headed," junior guard Dominique Kelley said after keying a late surge that put away the Aggies.

Even so, after many of her team's games – 18 of which it won by double-digit margins – Connie Yori was left talking about how she hadn't foreseen such a lopsided outcome.

Three days before playing A&M, Yori could have gotten away with such a claim after watching the Huskers crush No. 10 Oklahoma State in the first-ever meeting between Top 10 teams in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

But even at that point, she admitted she was starting to run out of reasons to be surprised.

"I've said that a lot. I feel like a liar I've said it so much, but these guys continue to keep getting better and better," Yori said.

The game against Oklahoma State was essentially over with 8:35 still to play in the first half. At that point, senior guard Vonnie Turner had just completed a four-point play to leave Nebraska with a 35-10 advantage.

Barely 8 minutes in, the Cowgirls were down by 23 and coach Kurt Budke had burned three of his five timeouts trying to get their attention.

"We probably lost the Big 12 championship tonight," Budke offered. "I can't imagine Nebraska losing two games. She's got this special team that just doesn't come every year, unless you're sitting in Hartford, Conn."

He meant Storrs, but you get the idea.

"It's great to see fans come (see) this senior-dominated team that's separated themselves as one of the nation's premier," K-State coach Deb Patterson said on Jan. 23 after watching Nebraska defeat her determined squad by 15 points in front of 13,303 – the largest crowd to see a women's game in the Sports Center.

Such efforts had the Huskers standing halfway through their 16-game Big 12 schedule without a loss – three fewer than anyone else in the league.

Fairly impressive separation, wouldn't you say?

"I would like to say that it's comforting, but it's not," Griffin said before noting another famous saying. "They say 'March Madness,' but February is almost as crazy...It's nice (to be 8-0 in the league), but to do what we did (in the first half over the course of the second) is going to be extremely challenging."

Added Yori, "Obviously, we've got a special group," but "we've got a long season ahead of us and we want to keep plugging away and doing what we're doing."

The Huskers' statistics halfway through league play would suggest they've done exactly that. Griffin, Kelley, senior forward Cory Montgomery and senior guard Vonnie Turner all had double-figure point averages for the season – and all of them had higher numbers in Big 12 games.

With Moore steering the offense, NU also had gone from a negative assists-to-turnover ratio to the best one in the league.

It's enough to make one think that Blair knows exactly what he's talking about when raving over the Huskers.

And that, internally at least, they might want to reassess how far they thought they could take things this season?

"As a team, we haven't really sat down and re-discussed goals," Griffin said. "We have goals from the beginning of the year and that's what we're trying to do – and how we do it is one practice at a time.

"(Thinking) big picture, it can be super overwhelming, so we're just enjoying the experience."

SUPPORTING A WINNER

In seven of their first nine home contests this season, the Huskers drew between 2,134 and 3,671. The exceptions were the 7,717 who showed up to watch them take on No. 5 LSU and the 7,036 who came to watch them square off against then-No. 19 Texas.

But starting with the record crowd for Kansas State, each of the next three games in the Sports Center drew in excess of 10,000. M

2009-10 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Nov. 3 Pittsburg State (exh), W, 68-54
- Nov. 8 Nebraska-Kearney (exh), W, 89-47
- Nov. 13 Davidson, W, 86-62
- Nov. 15 at UNLV, W, 73-51
- Nov. 19 Idaho State, W, 88-41
- Nov. 22 Washington State, W, 107-54 Saint Mary's Hilton Tournament
- Nov. 27 UALR, at Moraga, Calif., W, 62-45
- Nov. 28 at Saint Mary's College, W, 84-73
- Dec. 3 South Dakota, W, 77-38
- Dec. 5 Miami, at Coral Gables, Fla., W, 76-71
- Dec. 9 Creighton, W, 69-56
- Dec. 13 Northern Illinois, W, 69-44
- Dec. 20 LSU, W, 77-63
- Dec. 30 Albany, W, 88-41
- Jan. 4 at Vermont, W, 94-50
- Jan. 9 at Iowa State, W, 57-49
- Jan. 12 Texas, W, 91-79
- Jan. 17 at Baylor, W, 65-56
- Jan. 23 Kansas State, W. 71-56
- Jan. 27 at Texas Tech. W. 89-47
- Jan. 30 at Colorado, W, 80-64
- Feb. 3 Oklahoma State, W, 88-67
- Feb. 6 Texas A&M, W, 71-60
- Feb. 10 at Kansas, W, 67-60
- Feb. 13 at Missouri, TBA
- Feb. 17 Iowa State, 7:05 p.m.
- Feb. 20 Colorado, TBA
- Feb. 24 at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 27 Missouri, TBA
- Mar. 3 Kansas, 7:05 p.m.
- Mar. 6 at Kansas State, TBA
- Mar 11-14 at Big 12 Championships Mar 20-23 NCAA First & Second Rounds
- Mar 27-30 NCAA Regionals
- Apr 4-6 NCAA Women's Final Four,at San
- Antonio, Texas (Alamodome)

Baseball



BY MIKE BABCOCK

Huskers re-affirm, re-commit to future of program

f the problems of a year ago were an aberration, caused in part by the Major League draft, the story of this Nebraska baseball season might be subtitled "Three days in May."

After his seventh Cornhusker team finished 2009 with the program's first losing record since 1997, just before the start of the university's summer break, coach Mike Anderson assembled those who would be returning in a kind of three-day forum on the state of the program.

They sifted through "the issues," Anderson said. "Very little had to do with baseball. We had meetings in my house. We basically needed everybody to re-affirm and re-commit to the longevity of this program, and understand what they did in the summer was vitally important.

"The group that came back was ready to go. And they haven't stopped."

At the risk of re-opening the wounds, Nebraska finished 25-28-1 last season and failed to qualify for the Big 12 Tournament for the first time since 1998. The string of 10 conference tournaments, four of which the Cornhuskers won, coincided with nine trips to NCAA regionals, four trips to NCAA superregionals and three trips to the College World Series – most recently in 2005.

Competing at the national level had become the norm. In retrospect, "I think my biggest mistake last year was the optimism that I held to, that I thought, 'We'll be OK,' " said Anderson.

"The consistency our program has had created that just a little bit."

He and his assistants saw the potential for what happened. The program was hit hard by the Major League draft, which created uncertainty in the pitching staff that couldn't be resolved.

They knew that could happen. So when it did, it was no surprise.

"It was a very specific thing. It was our pitching staff," said Anderson.

The staff earned-run average was 6.22. Opponents batted .291.

"We didn't have the depth in pitching that we've had in the past. We didn't have the ability to maneuver and change roles and do different things in roles," Anderson said.

"My fear was...that lack of (pitching) depth started to transfer into other parts of our game. Twenty games into it, we survived. We were a little bit above average team and then it caught up with us. It started to affect the defense. It started to affect the hitting."

Despite the adversity, however, the team didn't become "dysfunctional," said Anderson. "We did not lose our bond. We did not lose our cohesiveness as a team. Really, it just became baseball issues that we need to get better at. And we've worked at trying to do that."

Anderson doesn't identify team captains. Soon after succeeding Dave Van Horn, he quit doing that. "I think you literally need 10 or 12 leaders on every team," he said. "There are groups of leaders, and to just say you've got three that are dictating the core of the team, it really doesn't happen.

"What happens is you get a core group of guys, about 10 or 12, that learn how to take control and lead a team. For that to happen, you as a coach...have to give them that ownership."

That was among the reasons for the three days last May.

"As remedial as it may be, those three

days were vitally important," Anderson said.

HITTING

Eight position players with 20 or more starts return, including All-Big 12 first baseman Tyler Farst (.333, 3 HR, 36 RBI) and outfielder Adam Bailey, who

2010 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

2/19 at Fresno State, 8:05 p.m.

2/20 at Fresno State, 4:05 p.m.

2/21 at Fresno State, 3:05 p.m.

2/22 at Fresno State, 8:05 p.m.

2/26 vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, 1 p.m.

2/27 at Rice, 4:30 p.m.

2/28 vs. Elon, Noon

3/2 South Dakota State, 1:05 p.m.

3/5 at UCLA, 8 p.m.

3/6 at UCLA, 4 p.m.

3/7 at UCLA, 1 p.m.

3/10 Nebraska-Kearney, 1:05 p.m.

3/12 Houston Baptist, 1:05 p.m.

3/13 Houston Baptist, 2:05 p.m.

3/14 Houston Baptist,1:05 p.m.

3/19 at Texas*, 6:05 p.m.

3/20 at Texas*, 2:05 p.m.

3/21 at Texas*, 1:05 p.m.

3/23 Northern Colorado, 1:05 p.m.

3/24 Northern Colorado, 1:05 p.m.

3/26 Oklahoma*, 6:35 p.m.

3/27 Oklahoma*, 2:05 p.m.

3/28 Oklahoma*, 1:05 p.m.

3/30 North Dakota, 6:35 p.m.

3/31 North Dakota, 1:05 p.m.

4/2 at Oklahoma State*, 6:30 p.m.

4/3 at Oklahoma State*, 2 p.m.

4/4 at Oklahoma State*, 1 p.m.

4/6 Creighton, 6:35 p.m.

4/9 at Kansas State*, 6:30 p.m. 4/10 at Kansas State*, 2 p.m.

4/11 at Kansas State*, 1 p.m.

4/13 Wichita State, 6:35 p.m.

4/16 Kansas*, 6:35 p.m.

4/17 Kansas*, 4:05 p.m.

4/18 Kansas*, 1:05 p.m.

4/20 vs. Creighton,6:30 p.m. 4/23 at Baylor*, 6:30 p.m.

4/24 at Baylor*, 3 p.m.

4/25 at Baylor*, 1 p.m.

4/27 at lowa, 6:05 p.m.

4/30 Texas A&M*, 6:35 p.m.

5/1 Texas A&M*, 2:05 p.m. 5/2 Texas A&M*, 11:05 a.m.

5/7 Southeast Missouri State, 6:35 p.m.

5/8 Southeast Missouri State, 2:05 p.m.

5/9 Southeast Missouri State, 2:05 p.m.

5/14 at Missouri*, 7 p.m.

5/15 at Missouri*, 7 p.m.

5/16 at Missouri*, Noon

5/18 vs. Creighton^, 7 p.m.

5/21 Texas Tech*, 6:35 p.m.

5/22 Texas Tech*, 2:05 p.m.

5/23 Texas Tech*, 1:05 p.m.

6/4-7 NCAA Regionals

6/11-14 NCAA Super Regionals 6/19-30 College World Series^

* Conference Games

^ at Rosenblatt Stadium, Omaha, Neb.

batted .325 and led the team in home runs (12), runs-batted-in (50) and slugging percentage (.598). The others are infielders Kyle Bubak and Cody Asche, outfielders DJ Belfonte, Boomer Collins and Khiry Cooper and catcher Cory Burleson.

PITCHING

Right-hander Sean Yost (2-5, 6.02) could emerge as the Friday night starter, though that crucial spot in the rotation is far from set. Michael Mariot (2-2, 7.06) and Casey Hauptman (4-6, 5.6) also are in the mix as are freshmen Tom Lemke and Kurt Giller. Mike Nesseth (5-4, 5.01, 2 saves) is the projected closer. Left-hander Jordan Roualdes (4-4, 6.79) is recovering from knee surgery.

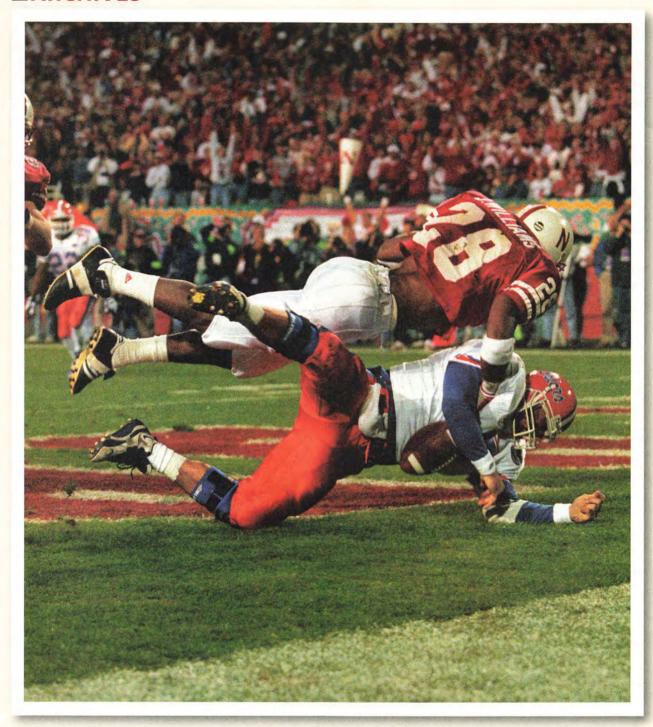
FRIDAY NIGHT

Friday night's opener sets the tone in the Big 12's three-game series. "That Friday guy goes and gets you a win and so you go into Saturday and Sunday 1-0; it sure does change the feel of not having to fight back and have to win two to win the series," Anderson said.

RECRUITING

A year ago the Huskers lost three pitching recruits to the draft: Curtis Peterson (4th round), Shane Dyer (6th) and Jake Kuebler (17th). "We started the recruiting process almost two years in advance of the professional draft...18 months to a year later you can't possibly forecast where they might be and when they might sign," said Anderson. "What we've done is we've been very consistent. Last year it got us. I think we were in the very same scenario this past year and it worked. It fell into place in a positive way for us." Collegiate Baseball ranked Nebraska's recruiting class 13th in the nation. It included three pitchers who were drafted in 2009 - including Tom Lemke in the 10th round - but didn't sign. N

FROM THE ARCHIVES



DOWN YOU GO, DANNY— Nebraska trailed Florida and its high-powered, "Fun 'n Gun" offense after one quarter of the 1996 Fiesta Bowl game. The score was 10-6. At halftime, Nebraska led 35-10. The Cornhuskers scored 36 unanswered points, carrying into the third quarter. Points 8 and 9 in that scoring explosion came less than 3 minutes into the second quarter when junior linebacker Jamel Williams sacked quarterback Danny Wuerffel for a safety. At 6-foot-2 and 205 pounds, Williams wasn't big for a

linebacker. He had begun his Cornhusker career as a rover (strong safety), in fact. But he was moved to WILL linebacker and then to SAM linebacker, where he utilized his speed and athleticism. He was among the team's fastest players, running the 40-yard dash in an electronically timed 4.51 seconds. He also competed for the Husker track team, running the 55 meters indoors and the 100 meters outdoors. He wasn't the only one to get to Wuerffel, who was sacked six other times.



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GAMES REMEMBERED

FLORIDA STATE 18, NEBRASKA 14 OCT. 4, 1980 • AT MEMORIAL STADIUM

The victory was **BOBBY BOWDEN**'s 38th as head coach at Florida State, where he was in his fifth of 34 seasons there. The Seminoles had come to Lincoln with a 3-1 record and No. 16 ranking in the Associated Press poll. Nebraska was No. 3, with national championship aspirations.

Defense dominated. Florida State managed 166 total yards, including just 12 rushing. Linebacker KIM BAKER, tackle HENRY WAECHTER and end DERRIE NELSON led the Blackshirts.

But Nebraska also struggled offensively, and its struggles were magnified by four turnovers, including two interceptions and two-offour fumbles lost. Even so, the Cornhuskers, who led 14-0 with 6:30 remaining in the first half, had an opportunity to win at the end.

Quarterback JEFF QUINN directed a drive from his own 20-yard line to the Florida State 3 with 21 seconds remaining. Nebraska had used its final timeout.

On first-and-goal, Quinn threw an incomplete pass; 17 seconds remained.

On second-and-goal, Quinn rolled to his left, looking to pass again.

Time probably would have elapsed if a running play had failed, Cornhusker coach **TOM OSBORNE** said afterward.

Osborne's point was moot. Quinn was pulled down by Florida State linebacker PAUL PIUROWSKI at the Nebraska 10-yard line and fumbled the ball, which was recovered by the Seminoles' GARY FUTCH.

The tackle was Piurowski's 18th of the game, and 12th unassisted.

Quinn was trying to throw the ball out of bounds to stop the clock but lost his grip.

BOBBY BOWDEN: "This was a big win for us, no doubt about it. Maybe the biggest."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- Nebraska was without starting I-back JARVIS REDWINE on the final drive. Redwine, who carried 25 times for 145 yards, was sidelined in the fourth quarter by cracked ribs. The senior from Inglewood, Calif., went into the game averaging 8.3 yards per carry. In three games, he had rushed for 521 yards and scored six touchdowns.
- Afterward, BOBBY BOWDEN sent an open letter to newspapers in Nebraska. The letter said, in part: "I have never seen people with more class (than) I saw at Nebraska last week."

Florida State 18, Nebraska 14

Florida State 0 3 12 3 - 18 Nebraska 7 7 0 0 - 14

- (N) Todd Brown 8 pass Jeff Quinn (Kevin Seibel kick)
- (N) Brown 12 pass Quinn (Seibel kick)
- (FS) Bill Capece 32 field goal
- (FS) Capece 27 field goal
- (FS) Sam Platt 6 run (pass failed)
- (FS) Capece 40 field goal
- (FS) Capece 41 field goal

Attendance: 78,031

- ▶ The game was the first in a four-game series between the schools. All four were played in Lincoln. The teams split the games, with Florida State also winning in 1985 (17-13) and Nebraska winning in 1981 (34-14) and in 1986 (34-17). The Huskers were higher ranked in each.
- ▶ Bowden earned the first of his two national championships at Nebraska's expense when the heavily favored Seminoles won the 1994 Orange Bowl game 18-16. Bowden was 4-0 against Osborne in bowl games. The other three were: 31-28, 1988 Fiesta Bowl; 41-17, 1990 Fiesta Bowl; 27-14, 1993 Orange Bowl. The Seminoles were higher ranked in all four.

Bowden praises Nebraska:



Seminole Football.

October 8, 1980

Gentlemen:

I have been coaching college football the past 28 years and have played before some great crowds in this country. I have never seen people with more class that I saw at Nebraska last week. The Nebraska fans, players, cheerleaders, band, officials, coaches, etc., gave me a living testimony of what college football should be all about. I actually had the feeling that when we upset the Nebraska team, that instead of hate and spite the Nebraska fans thanked us for coming to Lincoln and putting on a good show. This is nearly unheard of in todays society. Nebraska you are a great example for Americans to copy. I hope we show half the class your people

Sincerely,

Couch Bank Bonit

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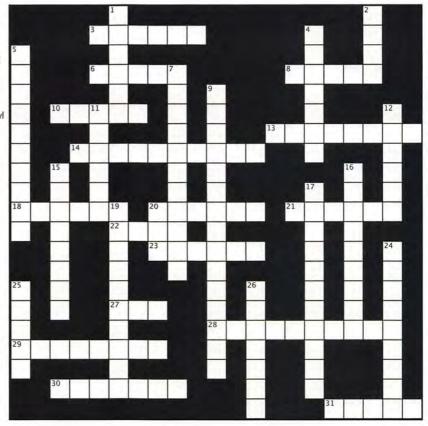
ACROSS

- 3. Recruit who'll join father and brother in program
- 6. Ex-Husker offensive lineman in Super Bowl with Saints
- 8. Ex-Husker linebacker with Colts in Super Bowl
- 10. Running back recruit
- 13. Wears No. 22
- 14. 2010 non-conference road opponent
- 18. Quarterback recruit
- 20. Ex-Husker linebacker with Saints in Super Bowl
- 21. 1997 Outland Trophy winner
- 22. Leading receiver in 2009
- 23. Leading scorer in 2009
- 27. Defensive tackle recruit enrolled for spring semester
- Roy Helu's home state
- 29. Pierre Allen's home state
- 30. Wears No. 44
- 31. Oct. 16 opponent

DOWN

- 1. NU's second Heisman Trophy winner
- 2. Network for NU-Kansas State telecast
- 4. Husker linebacker in 2010 Senior Bowl
- 5. Ex-Husker walk-on who is on Olympic bobsled team
- 7. Wears No. 55
- 9. Opponent in 2010 opener
- 11. Husker safety in 2010 Senior Bowl
- 12. Junior college tight end recruit
- 15. Junior college offensive line recruit
- 16. Wears No. 11
- 17. Ex-Husker defensive end in NFL Pro Bowl
- 19. April 17 event
- 20. 2009 Outland Trophy winner24. Returning leader in pass breakups in 2010
- 25. Leading tackler returning in 2010
- 26. Recruiting coordinator

Answers will appear in the April issue



HUSKERNUTZ



EVENTUALLY, HOWIE'S OBSESSION WITH HUSKER RECRUITING REACHED ITS LIMITS.

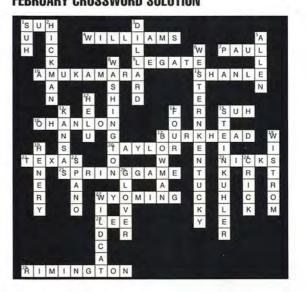
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FEBRUARY CROSSWORD SOLUTION





Analysts carry little weight with Pelini

YOU PROBABLY HAD to be there.

But trust me, it was among the highlights of the news conference to announce Nebraska's 2010 football recruiting class on letter-of-intent-signing day.

It was a departure from the mundane business of handing out the list of players who had already been identified on the Internet immediately after they signed.

HuskersIllustrated.com even had a contact at Proviso East High School in suburban Chicago, posting up-dates on Corey Cooper as he prepared to announce his choice, not long after 9 a.m.

Anyway, by the time everyone had assembled on the sixth-floor press level in west Memorial Stadium, all 21 of the Cornhuskers' scholarship recruits had been reported.

The news conference, scheduled for 2:30 p.m., began at about 2:45, not all that long after Owa Odighizuwa, the 5-star defensive tackle from Portland, Ore., announced he was headed to UCLA and not Nebraska. His announcement was televised on both ESPN2 and ESPNU.

Is that too much coverage? You be the judge.

But back to the sixth floor...

Probably 15 minutes into the questionand-answer session with coach Bo Pelini, a newspaper columnist asked a question that elicited a predictable response.

Well, actually, it was more of a statement than a question because Pelini interrupted before the question part. The roles were reversed, with Pelini asking the question.

The exchange went this way:

"One thing analysts have said, Bo, is that this class may lack, like, a highimpact skill player..."

Pelini: "What analysts are those?"
"I don't want to name anybody."

Pelini: "Well, I like to base my decisions on my analysis, not somebody that isn't watching the same films I am. So, you know, everyone's going to have their opinion. They can sit there...we'll talk about it in a couple of years here. We'll figure out who's right. How's that?"

Pelini's brief second question was rhetorical, of course.

Yes, we can wait. That will be just fine. Listening to the exchange, I was reminded of when I was writing sports for a newspaper in Champaign-Urbana, Ill., in the mid-1970s – The Courier. It no longer exists.

My first beat assignment was
Champaign Central High School.
Central's football coach, Tommy Stewart,
was a local legend. Even so, every
Saturday morning after a game he would
go to a Laundromat to do his team's
laundry. He did it to save the school a
little money. And he had been doing it for
so long that the owner of the Laundromat
gave him a key so he could open up as
early as he wanted.

I would meet him there and help fold towels and socks.

Stewart was skeptical of reporters. And whenever he was asked how he thought his team was going to play in its next game, he had a stock response. He would spit out the words, with jaw clenched. "Ask me next Saturday," he would say. "Then you'll know. And I'll know."

Pelini was saying essentially the same

thing about the quality of Nebraska's 2010 recruiting class, including walk-ons: Ask me in four or five years. Then we'll both know.

That's as it should be, of course, which is no knock on recruiting analysts, who work hard at identifying, ranking and maintaining contact with high school athletes – though televised news conferences to announce the decisions of top-rated recruits, might be a bit over the top.

And not every coach shares Pelini's opinion. At his signing-day news conference in 2005, former Cornhusker coach Bill Callahan said: "I really believe that being ranked well in the (recruiting) polls you have a better chance to win. It allows you that ability to up-grade yourself.

"Will it bring championships? I certainly hope so."

Ndamukong Suh was in the 2005 class. So was Harrison Beck. Some excel. Some don't.

Pelini's approach to recruiting is more in line with Nebraska tradition. Have a clearly identified system. Find players who fit that system, regardless of ranking. And coach them.

"Now it's our job to take these young men who have high goals and high expectations and help them, enable them, to make those dreams come true," Pelini said.

"I believe that's where this staff is at its best."

In that context, "we have a great class as a whole," he said.

Never mind what unnamed analysts say. N



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